

A GLOSSARY
OF
WORDS AND PHRASES

USED IN

W. WORCESTERSHIRE

TOGETHER WITH SOME OF THE

Sayings, Customs, Superstitions, Charms, &c.

COMMON IN THAT DISTRICT.

BY JESSE SALISBURY.

London:

J. SALISBURY, 48, FLEET LANE, E.C.

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1893

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ERRATA.

Page 19, line 17 from top, *read*, 'W'en 'er wuz a young un,' &c.

„ 31, „ 1 „ „ „, 'the ears, snout,' &c.

„ 35, „ 17 „ bottom „ 'the final s in *slawns*,' &c.

„ 37, „ 13 „ top, „ 'the bar to which the shafts of a double
shafted waggon are attached.'

„ 37, „ 2 „ bottom „ 'I sh'll get in un' sit by the fire.'

„ 44, „ 14 „ „ „ 'when in company, and speaking of a person
who is present.'

PREFACE.

THIS attempt to compile a Glossary of Words and Phrases used in South-East Worcestershire (the district around Evesham and Pershore), owes its origin, principally, to a perusal of Mrs. Chamberlain's interesting 'Glossary of West Worcestershire Words,' published by the English Dialect Society in 1882.

Being a native of the district above indicated, and an enthusiastic lover of everything relating to the county of Worcester, I had for some years previously, been collecting scraps and fragments concerning the locality, but with no definite object in view; and I felt greatly delighted when I recognised in Mrs. Chamberlain's work, many of the old home words, sayings, and customs, which were so familiar to me in my younger days; but which had in many instances become almost forgotten.

Although in the same county, I found that there were many words used in our locality which were not in use in West Worcestershire, and so not included in Mrs. Chamberlain's book. I therefore began systematically to note down all such words that I could think of, or that I otherwise met with; with the result that I am now able to submit to all who are interested in the subject of local dialects, and to the public generally, the present collection of South-East Worcestershire Words and Phrases.

In doing so, I trust that I am contributing a minute quota of quaint (and possibly some few peculiar) words, towards the formation of a work which would be of the greatest interest and utility, viz., a complete Glossary of Local Words, Sayings, and Phrases used in every district in England. The increased, and still increasing facilities for intercommunication, together with the advance of education, are, however, daily enhancing the

difficulty of accomplishing such a task; and should it be long deferred, it will, it is to be feared, become a matter of absolute impossibility.

Many words are included in the following pages, which are neither peculiar to the district nor yet to the county, but which are not exactly common. These I decided to retain, as being useful for purposes of comparison; also that students of dialect might be assisted (however slightly), in ascertaining to what extent, and in what localities, such words are current.

In instances in which Mrs. Chamberlain has, in her glossary, employed illustrative phrases, I have generally adopted them; making such alterations only, as were necessary to adapt them to this locality. The difference in the dialect of the two districts (the W. and the S.E.) can thus be the more readily observed, for which reason, I trust I may be pardoned for the liberty I have taken.

It was originally intended that this fragment should have been published by the English Dialect Society, by whom much has already been done in the direction above indicated, and at whose disposal I had placed my MS.; but owing to various causes, its publication was from time to time deferred, until I at length decided to issue it myself, as it now appears.

Whilst in the hands of the above Society, my MS. was submitted by the Secretary to the inspection of Professor Skeat, to whom I am indebted for some important suggestions.

To the Rev. Canon Lawson, author of 'Upton Words and Phrases,' (E.D.S., 1884), I desire to express my sincere thanks for the kindly interest he has taken in my work, and for a copy of 'Notes of Quaint Words and Sayings in the Dialect of South Worcestershire,' by A. Porson, M.A., the perusal of which brought to my mind some words and sayings that had escaped my memory.

To Mr. George Davies, I am greatly indebted for various suggestions, many of which I have been able to adopt, although they did not reach me until the work was in the printer's hands; but more particularly for his great assistance in that portion

which relates to Shakespeare (of whose writings he is an enthusiastic student). Indeed, it was at his suggestion only, that I decided to include the Shakespeare list.

As it forms in my memory a kind of connecting link between the old time and the present, I may mention, that I had the pleasure (many years ago), of knowing Mr. Davies's grandfather (Mr. John Davies, of Little Comberton), and I do not think I ever met with another man who could relate so many local stories, or who could sing so many traditional old songs.*

For the purpose of illustrating some of the peculiarities of our dialect, I have (in addition to the phrases already referred to), introduced a few local sayings and stories, and in these my dear niece Agnes, has assisted me very materially; giving me hints as to some of the idiomatic phrases, in cases in which my long absence from the district, had caused my memory to become slightly defective. She has also contributed some of the 'Remedies,' &c., which are here included; for all of which I thank her most heartily.

To her father (my beloved brother), who still resides in our village, I am indebted for several words and sayings; and more particularly for many of the Field Names, of which a list is included in this work. I therefore tender him my warmest thanks, and trust that he will discover in these pages, pleasant reminiscences, of the days 'when we were boys together.'

JESSE SALISBURY.

(Of Little Comberton.)

London, 1893.

* Some were exceedingly quaint, and I venture to introduce here the following verse of one which lingers in my memory, but which I have never met with in print. It is probably familiar to students of Old Song literature. Being a portion of what is supposed to be a 'Rag-man's' song, the reader will kindly excuse the indelicacy of its allusions.

'Old rags, old jags, old bodies of stays;
Bring them to me; I will them appraise;
Nitty, or lousey, or buggy beside,
Up o' my back, and away they shall ride.'

CONJUGATIONS OF VERBS, &c.

ũ (*u* as in cut), õõ (*oo* as in wool).

TO BE.

Present.

Singular.

Plural.

I be.

We be.

Thee bist.

You be.

'E or 'er is.

Thaay be.

Past.

I wuz.

We wuz.

Thee wust.

You wuz.

'E wuz.

Thaay wuz.

Negative (present).

I byunt.

We byunt.

Thee bissent.

You byunt.

'E yunt.

Thaay byunt.

Negative (past).

I wuzzent, or wornt.

We wuzzent, or wornt.

Thee wussent.

You wuzzent, or wornt.

'E wuzzent, or wornt.

Thaay wuzzent, or wornt.

Interrog. (present).

Be I ? or Be e ?

Be we ? or Be us ?

Bist thee ?

Be you ? or be yũ ?

Is 'e ? or Is ũ ? *

Be thaay ? or be 'um ?

Interrog. (past).

Wuz I ?

Wuz wè ? or wùz-us ?

Wust thee ?

Wuz yòu ? or wùz yũ ?

Wuz 'e ?

Wuz thàay ? or wùz um ?

* The words printed in italics are strongly accented.

Interrog. Neg. (present).

Byunt I?	Byunt us?
Bissent thee?	Byunt <i>you</i> ? or <i>byunt</i> yŭ?
Yunt 'e? or <i>yunt</i> ũ?	Byunt <i>thaay</i> ? or <i>byunt</i> 'um?

Interrog. Neg. (past).

Wuzzent I?	Wuzzent <i>we</i> ? or <i>wuzzent</i> us?
Wussent <i>thee</i> ? or <i>wussent</i> ?	Wuzzent <i>you</i> ? or <i>wuzzent</i> yŭ?
Wuzzent 'e? or <i>wuzzent</i> ũ?	Wuzzent <i>thaay</i> ? or <i>wuzzent</i> 'um?

TO HAVE.

Present.

I 'ave, or 'a.	We 'ave or 'a.
Thee 'ast.	You 'ave or 'a.
'E 'ave, or 'a.	Thaay 'ave, or 'a.

Past.

I 'ad.	We 'ad.
Thee 'adst.	You 'ad.
'E 'ad.	Thaay 'ad.

Negative (present).

I 'ant, or 'aint.	We 'ant, or 'aint.
Thee 'assn't.	You 'ant or 'aint.
'E 'ant or aint.	Thaay 'ant or 'aint.

Negative (past).

I 'adn't.	We 'adn't.
Thee 'adn'st.	You 'adn't.
'E 'adn't.	Thaay 'adn't.

Interrog. (present).

'Ave I? or 'ave e?	'Ave <i>we</i> ? or 'ave us?
'Ast <i>thee</i> ? or 'ast?	'Ave <i>you</i> ? or 'ave yŭ?
'Uv 'e? or 'ave ũ?	'Uv <i>thaay</i> ? or 'ave 'um?

Interrog. (past).

'Ad I? or 'ad e?	'Ad <i>we</i> ? or 'ad us?
'Adst <i>thee</i> ? or 'adst?	'Ad <i>you</i> ? or 'ad yŭ?
'Ad 'e? or 'Ad ũ?	'Ad <i>thaay</i> ? or 'ad 'um?

Interrog. Neg. (present).

'An't <i>I</i> ? or 'an't <i>e</i> ?	'An't <i>we</i> ? or 'an't <i>us</i> ?
'Assn't <i>thee</i> ? or 'Assn't ?	'An't <i>you</i> ? or 'an't <i>yū</i> ?
'An't 'e ? or 'an't ũ ?	'An't <i>thaay</i> ? or 'an't <i>um</i> ?

Interrog. Neg. (past).

'Adn't <i>I</i> ? or a'dn't <i>e</i> ?	'Adn't <i>we</i> ? or 'adn't <i>us</i> ?
'Adn'st <i>thee</i> ? or 'adns't ?	'Adn't <i>you</i> ? or 'adn't <i>yū</i> ?
'Adn't 'e ? or 'adn't ũ ?	'Adn't <i>thaay</i> ? or 'adn't <i>um</i> ?

SHALL.

I shall.	We shall.
Thee shot.	You shall.
'E shall.	Thaay shall.
<i>I shūd, or I shood.</i>	<i>We shūd, or we shood.</i>
<i>Thee shūd'st, or thee shood'st.</i>	<i>You shūd, or you shood.</i>
<i>'E shūd, or 'E shööd.</i>	<i>Thaay shūd, or thaay shood.</i>

Negative.

I shaunt.	We shaunt.
Thee shotn't.	You shaunt.
'E shaunt.	Thaay shaunt.
I shöödn't.	We shoodn't.
Thee shoodn'st.	You shoodn't.
'E shoodn't.	Thaay shoodn't.

Interrogative.

Sholl <i>I</i> , or sholl <i>e</i> ?	Sholl <i>we</i> ? or sholl <i>us</i> ?
Shot ? or shot <i>thee</i> ?	Sholl <i>you</i> ? or sholl <i>yū</i> ?
Sholl 'e ? or sholl ũ ?	Sholl <i>thaay</i> ? or sholl <i>um</i> ?

Interrog. Neg.

Shaunt <i>I</i> ? or shaunt <i>e</i> ?	Shaunt <i>we</i> ? or shaunt <i>us</i> ?
Shotn't ? or shotn't <i>thee</i> ?	Shaunt <i>you</i> ? or shaunt <i>yū</i> ?
Shaunt 'e ? or shaunt ũ ?	Shaunt <i>thaay</i> ? or shaunt <i>um</i> ?

WILL.

I 'ööl.	We 'ööl.
Thee ööt.	You 'ööl.
'E 'ööl.	Thaay 'ööl.

I 'ööd.

We 'ööd.

Thee 'öödst.

You 'ööd.

'E 'ööd.

Thaay 'ööd.

Negative.

I wunt.

We wunt.

Thee öötn't.

You wunt.

'E wunt.

Thay wunt.

Interrogative.'Ööl *I* ? or *ööl e* ?'Ööl *we* ? or *ööl us* ?'Ööt *thee* ? or *ööt* ?'Ööl *you* ? or *'ööl yū* ?'Ööl *'e* ? or *ööl ũ* ?'Ööl *thaay* ? or *ööl um* ?*Interrog. Neg.*Wunt *I* ? or *wunt e* ?Wunt *we* ? or *wunt us* ?'Öötn't *thee* ? or *öötn't* ?Wunt *yōu* ? or *wunt yū* ?Wunt *'e* ? or *wunt yū* ?Wunt *thaay* ? or *wunt um* ?

CAN.

I con.

We con.

Thee const.

You con.

'E con.

Thaay con.

Negative.

I caunt.

We caunt.

Thee cosn't.

You caunt.

'E caunt.

Thaay caunt.

*Interrogative.*Cun *I* ? or *con e* ?Cun *we* ? or *con us* ?Cun'st *thee* ? or *const* ?Cun *you* ? or *con yū* ?Cun *'e* ? or *con ũ* ?Cun *thaay* ? or *con um* ?*Interrog. Neg.*Caunt *I* ? or *caunt e* ?Caunt *we* ? or *caunt us* ?Cosn't *thee* ? or *cosn't* ?Caunt *you* ? or *caunt yū* ?Caunt *'e* ? or *caunt ũ* ?Caunt *thaay* ? or *caunt um* ?

GLOSSARY

OF

S. E. WORCESTERSHIRE WORDS.

- A**, *v.* to have, present and imperative moods. 'I *a* bin a wäterin' the flowers.' *I have been watering the flowers.* 'A done ööt!' *Have done, will you!*
- Ā**, *pron.* he; she; it. 'Where is *a*?' 'There *a* comes.' (The pronunciation of the *a* in this instance is like *u* in but.)
- Ā**, *prep.* in; on; as *abed* for *in* bed, *atop* for *on* the top. 'Er's *a* bed mighty bad, uv *a* bwile *a* top uv 'er yud.'
- Abear**, *v.* to endure. 'I caunt *abear* the sight on 'im.' 'E caunt *abear* to be lofft (laughed) at.'
- Above-a-bit**, *adverbial phrase*, extremely. 'Thase 'ere bad times werrits me *above-a-bit*, thay döös; I don't knaow what to do no more nur the dyud.'
- Acaowd**, *adj.* cold. 'Be yer 'onds *acaowd*? come ether an' warm un.'
- According** (pronounced *accardin'*) *adv.* in comparison with. 'It's as much bigger *accardin'* as my fut is nur that there young un's.' *It is as much larger comparatively, as my foot is than that child's.*
- Ack**, *v.* to hoe potatoes for the first time.
- Afore**, *prep.* before. 'Come un see us *afore* yū gwuz away.'
- After-math** or **Arter-math**, *n.* the second crop of hay from one field in the same season.
- Agate**, *v.* going on. 'What's *agate* now?'
- Ails**, *n.* barley-beards.
- Aim**, *v.* to attempt; to endeavour; to intend. 'Er *aimed* to pick it up, but it was too 'eavy fur 'er to 'eft.'
- Aizac**, *n.* a small bird which builds its nest in the grass on the banks of hedges. Perhaps a corruption of *Haysuck*. The Haybird.
- Akere**, *v.* look here; or, come here.

All-as-is. All that remains. 'The pot's pretty nigh empty, but I'll gi' yū *all-as-is*.

All-as-one. All the same. 'Thee cunst göö ar stop, Bill; it's *all-as-one*.'

Ally or **White Al**, *n.* a white marble (much prized by boys).

Anant, *prep.* opposite. 'Put them there faggits down *anant* the door.'

Aowf (Oaf) *n.* a foolish or silly person.

Apern or **Apun**, *n.* an apron; the diaphragm or midriff of a pig.

Arms, *n.* axles of a cart or waggon.

Arse of a waggon or **cart**, the hinder-part.

Askew, *adv.* out of shape; twisted.

Aslat or **Az-lit**, *n.* the liver, lungs, heart, &c., of a pig. (Not very common in this district.)

Assud or **Arseud**, *adj.* contrary. (*Arseward*.)

Assud-backuds, *adj.* hind-before.

Athattens, *adv.* in that way. 'Thee artst to be ashum'd o' thee-self tū byut (beat) the bwoy *athattens*; yū great lungeous bagger.'

Athissens, *adv.* in this way. 'That yunt the way to do it; do it *athissens*.'

Atternone-folks, *n.* people who are in the habit of beginning work late in the day.

Awhile = spare time; 'I cawnt *awhile*,' means 'I cannot spare the time.'

Away-you-shuts = start off.

Aw-puck, *n.* the will-o'-the-wisp.

Axe-tree = axle-tree.

Backen, *v.* to keep back. 'This caowd weather 'ull *backen* the craps' (crops).

Back-side, *n.* the back of the house.

Back-sword, *n.* the exercise of singlestick.

Badger, *v.* to torment; to worry.

Bag, *n.* the udder of a cow. Three bushels of corn.

Bag, *v.* to cut wheat, &c., with a *bagging-hook*, instead of with a sickle. The former instrument is larger and heavier than the sickle, and is used with a chopping action, instead of with a pull, as the sickle is used.

Bagger-wench, *n.* a beggar-girl.

Bagginet, *n.* a bayonet.

Baker, *n.* a pebble fixed into the roof of an oven to indicate when it is sufficiently heated. This is shown by the stone then presenting a floury-white appearance.

Bandy, *n.* a game played with a stick bent at the lower end; the bent stick used in the game (also called hockey).

Bannits, *n.* walnuts. 'Why uf 'ere yunt aowd Stoodley; the fust time as ever I knaowed 'im was w'en 'e was took up fur stalin' *bannits*.'

Barking-iron, *n.* an iron tool used in peeling off bark from trees.

Barm, *n.* yeast.

Barm-spout, *n.* a tin or wooden tube used for the purpose of conveying the yeast from the cask.

Baste, (1) *n.* a beast, (2) *v.* to beat. 'Uf I ketches thee a runnin' over that gardin agyun, I'll gi' thū a good *bastin*.' (3) *v.* To pour gravy upon meat while roasting, to prevent its burning.

Bat, *n.* pace; speed; as in walking, &c. 'I've come along at a smartish *bat*, an' it fetches the sweat out on mū, above a bit.'

Băther, *v.* to trample or beat down standing corn or grass; to wallow in dust, as fowls do.

Batherer, *n.* a dealer, as *ash-batherer*, a dealer in wood ashes (used for making ley).

Batter, *v.* In building a tall chimney, to *batter* is to gradually reduce the circumference. To build a wall out of the perpendicular.

Battle, *n.* a beetle; a cock-roach.

Bawk, *v.* to hinder.

Be-call, *v.* to abuse.

Bed-wrist (bed-wrest), *n.* a wooden instrument used for tightening the cords of the old-fashioned corded bedsteads.

Beetle, *n.* a large wooden hammer, or mallet.

Belluck, *v.* to roar.

Bell-wether, *n.* a crying child (primarily the wether-sheep which carried the bell).

Bed of a cart or wagon, *n.* the body; the wheels, &c., upon which it is borne being called the carriage.

Belly-full, *n.* a sufficient quantity. 'Didn't I see you a comin' out o' the Methodis' chapel o' Sundy, Mrs. Accon?' 'Oy sure, so yū did: it yunt as I 'aowlds ööth the Methodisses, they be sū sly to my thinkin'; but I likes to göö sometimes 'cos the sarmuns be sū cuttin'. Many a time I a' sat in that chapel an' cried my *belly-full*.'

Belt, *v.* to shear off the soiled wool ('belt-locks') from the buttocks of sheep.

Bent, *n.* slender stalk of grass.

Better, *adv.* more. 'How long have you lived in this house?' 'O, rather *better* nur a twelve-month.'

Bezzle, *v.* to drink immoderately, as a drunkard.

Bird-keeping, *v.* scaring birds from corn.

Bizzum (Besom), *n.* a broom composed of twigs of birch or of ling.

Black-bat, *n.* a black beetle.

Black-stare, *n.* a starling.

Blaht, *v.* to cry or hallo out lustily.

Bledther, *n.* a bladder.

Bleeding-heart, *n.* a kind of garden flower.

Blood-stick, *n.* a stick with which farriers strike the fleam when bleeding cattle.

Bloody-thumbs, *n.* quaker-grass.

Blow, *n.* blossom (pronounced *blaow*). 'That 'awthun tree anant the aowd barn is in *blaow* mwust beautiful.' 'Uv yū sin the blaow uv this 'ere pink? Its amwust as big as a rose.'

Blubber, *n.* a bubble.

Boar-stag, *n.* an old boar which has been emasculated.

Boil-out, *v.* to waste in boiling.

Boichin, *n.* an unfledged bird.

Bolting, *n.* (pronounced *baowtin*'), a bundle of straw of from 12 to 14lbs. weight. The *boltings* of best and longest straw are tied with two bands, those containing the short and inferior straw with only one. 'What a fright thū bist, wench; thee look'st like a *baowtin*' tied o' one bond.'

Book-of-hard-names, *n.* an account book.

Boss, *n.* a tassel; a rosette; a small bunch of ribbons.

Bost, *v.* to explode with a report.

Bottom, *n.* a ball or skein. 'It's all of a robble, like a bottom o' yarn.'

Bout, *n.* in ploughing, &c., once up and down the field. A 'bout' at back-sword corresponds with a 'round' at boxing.

Bowle, *n.* a bar or beam of a harrow. The *bowles* are connected by the *sloats*.

Bowk, *n.* the 'box' of a wheel. (The iron lining in which the axle is inserted.)

Braishy, *adj.* having branches.

Bran-new, *adj.* quite new.

Breast-plough, *n.* a plough worked by a man. It has a flat piece of wood at the upper end against which the plougher pushes with his breast, hence its name.

Bree, *n.* a large fly resembling a bee.

Breeds, *n.* the brim of a hat.

Brem, *n.* bream (a kind of fish).

Brevit, *v.* to hunt about; to pry inquisitively. 'Where 'a yū pūt my prayer-book to, Mary? I've brevitted thraow all them drahrs an' I caunt find 'im.' 'E'l get nuthin' from we, it's uv no use far 'im to come brevittin' about ower place.'

Briar-ball, *n.* a kind of spongy ball growing on the hip-briar or wild rose bush.

Brim, *n.* a boar.

Brun, or **hind-brun**, *n.* a log of wood suitable for laying behind or at the back of the grate.

Brow, *n.* the forehead.

Buckle, *n.* a tough slip of wood used for fastening the thatch upon a roof; *v.* to bend.

Builded, *v.* built.

Buff, *v.* to muffle the clapper of a bell.

Buff-peal, *n.* a muffled peal.

Bull-squitter, *n.* much fuss or talk about a very little matter.

Bum-ball, *n.* a ball with which boys play 'rounders' or similar games.

Bum, or **Bum-bailey**, *n.* a broker's man. 'I heerd uz how Jack 'ud got the *bums* in 'is 'ouse for rent.'

Bunch-o'-fives, *n.* the fist.

Bunt, *v.* to butt like a ram. To help another in climbing, &c., by giving him a lift (or bunt) behind.

Bur-dock, *n.* a thick, hard-stemmed dock.

Burr, *n.* a piece of iron to screw on the end of a bolt (same as nut.)

Burrŭ, *n.* a sheltered place. Corruption of burrow. 'The wind is pretty teart to-day, but if yŭ keeps in the burrŭ it 'll do yŭ moore good to gŏo out in the air a bit nur stivin' by the fire all the while.'

Burrŭ-urdle, *n.* a hurdle covered or thatched with straw and propped up in the field, on the *burrŭ* or sheltered side of which a tolerably good shelter from wind and rain may be secured.

Bury, *n.* a heap, as of potatoes ('tater-bury'), or of dung ('muck-bury.')

Bush-house, *n.* (at Pershore) a house opened at fair time only (26th and 27th of June), for the sale of beer and cider without licence, indicated by a bush fixed up at the door. Suppressed 1863.

Bussen, **Bussen-bellied**, *adj.* ruptured.

Butty, *n.* a work-fellow or companion. 'Ave yŭ sin Mary Parker lately, Mrs. Yapp?' 'Oye, I sis 'er mwust wicks; 'er's my butty when I weshes at the pawson's.' 'Im an' 'is butties wuz at ther tay, an' a mon cum to the door, an' 'e sez, sez 'e, "W'ich o' your names is Robison?"'

Bwystings, *n.* the first milk drawn from the udder of a cow after calving.

Byun-brish, *n.* bean stubble.

Cadger, *n.* a beggar.

Cag-mag, *v.* to grumble at, to quarrel. 'The missis sez to me, "What's that naise?" 'er sez. "Oh," sez I "it's only them two aowd craters upstairs a *cagmaggin'* like thay allays be.''

Call, *n.* cause; or, occasion.

Calls, to cattle, &c. To cows: 'Coop! coop!' To dogs: 'Heah, heah' or 'Pishty! Pishty!' To horses: 'Coop!' (start); 'Aw!' (turn towards driver); 'Cumma!' (to first horse to turn towards driver); 'Cum-ither!' (the same); 'Ett!' (turn from driver); 'Gee!' (to first horse to turn from driver); 'Wult!' (go slowly); 'Wey!' (stop). To pigs: 'Chuck! chuck!' To poultry: 'Còme Biddy! còme Biddy!'

Cank, *v.* to chatter; to talk incessantly.

Caplin, *n.* the bow by which, by means of a thong (*thunk*), the *nile* is attached to the hand-stick of a flail, or *threshel*.

Cart-saddle, *n.* the saddle worn by a cart-horse, and which carries the back-band.

Carrying-the-grind-stone, *v.* fetching the doctor to one's wife at her confinement.

Casselty, *adj.* uncertain. 'There's no tellin' what to be at in sitch *casselty* weather.'

Casting-net, *n.* a kind of fishing-net.

Cast (1) *n.* a second swarm of bees from the same hive in one season. (2) *v.* To give birth prematurely. (3) To yield. 'The whate *casses* (casts) well this year.' (4) A sheep turned over on its back and unable to get up again is *cast*.

Cat, *n.* a small piece of wood used in the game of 'bandy.' The *cat* is knocked with the bandy in opposite directions by the opposing players. (Also called a 'nun'.)

Chackle, *v.* to cackle as a hen.

Charky, *adj.* dry, sunbaked.

Chate or **Chut**, *n.* the Grasshopper Warbler.

Chats, *n.* chips of wood; short sticks, &c.

Chaun, *n.* a crack in the earth, or in a floor or wall. 'The ground is so dry there be *chauns* in it big enough for me to put my füt in amwust' (almost).

Chawl (1) *v.* to chew slowly. (2) To repeat words which have given offence. (3) *n.* The lower jaw of a pig.

Cheese, *n.* the stack of apple-pulp arranged in the press ready for pressing out the cider.

Cheese-cowl, *n.* a shallow tub, used in cheese making.

Cheeses, *n.* seeds of the Common Mallow.

Chime, *n.* a stave of a cask or tub.

Chine, *n.* a slice containing the spine cut out of the back of a pig. It is usually cut up into four or five lengths, each of which is called a *chine*.

Chits, *n.* the sprouts which shoot out from potatoes, wheat, &c., when germination has commenced. 'Them taters wans (want) sartin', but you must be keerful 'ow yū 'ondles um, else you'll knock the *chits* off.'

Chit, *n.* a term of approbrium applied to a forward young girl.

Chittlins (chitterlings), *n.* the entrails; most commonly applied to those of a pig.

Chobble, *v.* to chew.

Chock, *n.* a block of wood with which the linch-pin hole in the hub of a wheel is closed.

Chock-full, *adj.* completely full.

Chop, *v.* to exchange.

Chops, *n.* the mouth. 'Shut yer *chops* an' keep yer belly warm.'

Chump, *n.* a block of wood. The head, 'He's off his *chump*' = 'He's out of his mind.'

Christian, *n.* a human being.

Clack, *n.* chatter; incessant and idle talk.

Clanins (cleanings), *n.* the after-birth of a ewe, cow, mare, &c.

Clat-beetle, *n.* a light wooden mallet with a long handle used for breaking hard clods of earth.

Clatter, *n.* a rattling noise.

Cleaches, *n.* clots of blood, &c.

Clet, *n.* a wedge.

Clock, *n.* the downy head of the dandelion, when gone to seed. The children pluck these and blow off the down; the number of puffs required to blow off the whole of the down from one stalk is supposed to indicate what o'clock it is.

Clip, *v.* to embrace. 'The child *clipped* mū round the neck.'

Clomber, *v.* to climb.

Clommed, *adj.* starved, famished.

Clout, *n.* a rag or cloth, as dish-clout. Clothing.
'Change not a *clout* 'till May be out.'

Clout, *n.* a plate of iron nailed upon a wooden axle, to prevent its wearing away too rapidly with the friction of the wheel.

Cloy-iron, *n.* the iron at the end of a plough beam to which the traces of the horses are attached. (? Cloven-iron, the iron being divided to embrace the end of the plough-beam.)

Coal-hod, *n.* a coal box.

Cob-waaf, *n.* a spider's web.

Cock-laft, *n.* (cock-loft), the upper part of the interior of the roof.

Cock-sure, *adj.* over certain or confident. 'When the Deuyll had once broughte Christe to the crosse, he thought all *cocke sure*.' *Latimer's Sermon on The Ploughers*, 1549.

Cod (of a net), *n.* the bag-like part of a net used in bird-catching.

Cokers, *n.* reapers. The term is generally applied to those who come from a distance in search of harvest work.

Colley, *n.* soot; coal-black; smuttiness; *v.* to blacken.

Colley-coal, *n.* a cinder or ember.

'**Come-back**,' the cry of the guinea-fowl.

Come-ether, = come-hither.

Come-'is-ways, or **Come-'er-ways**, a term of endearment, used by parents when greeting their little children.

Cone-wheat, *n.* bearded wheat.

Conger, *n.* a cucumber.

Conk, *n.* the nose.

Conker, *n.* a snail shell, or snail-house.

Consaits, *v.* fancies or imagines. 'Two uv ower young uns a got the 'oopin' cough.' 'Ave um? a yŭ gan 'um ennything far it?' 'O oye, my ööman a bin a givin' 'um some buried bread ever so many marnins.' 'Döös it do 'um any good?' 'Well 'er *consaits* 'erself uz it döös.'

Cord-of-wood, a bundle or pile of wood 5 ft. high 8 ft. long and 4 ft. 1 in. wide. (Pronounced card (or kwerd) o' ööd.)

Cord-wood (Card-ööd), *n.* the branches of trees or other kind of timber, either cleft or round, used (as a rule) for fuel. Sold by measurement as above. (Pronounced Card-ööd or kwerd-ööd.)

Corner-frost, *n.* a frost so mild that it is only to be seen at corners exposed to the wind.

Cos, *conj.* because.

Cotch, *v.* caught.

Cover, *n.* a covert.

Cow-cummer, *n.* a cucumber.

Cowl, *n.* a small tub.

Crab-shulls, *n.* shoes.

Craichy, *adj.* weak; infirm; shaky. 'This 'ere's a mighty *craichy* aowd 'ouse.' 'I caunt get about much now, nat tŭ do no good, yŭ knaow; I be nothin' but a *craichy* aowd piece.'

Cranky, *adj.* insane.

Cratch, *n.* a kind of rack at back of a waggon or cart.

Craow-inun (crow-onion), *n.* a wild onion which often infests corn-crops, particularly in poor land.

Crass-eyed (cross-eyed), *adj.* squinting.

Craw, *n.* the bosom. 'I 'a ketched a bit a caowd through workin' ooth me shirt *craw* unbuttoned.'

Crazies, *n.* buttercups.

Cress-tiles, *n.* the tiles which cover the angle or ridge of a roof (crest-tiles.)

- Crib**, *n.* (1) a child's cot or cradle slung on a stand so that it may be swung or rocked. (2) A wooden enclosure or framework to contain straw or hay for foddering cattle. (3) *v.* To pilfer.
- Cricket**, *n.* a little stool.
- Croodle**, *v.* to bend or stoop down; to cower. 'Sit up, Lizzie, caunt yŷ. What do yŷ *croodle* over yer work like that far? You'll grow quite 'ump-backed.'
- Cross-and-hands**, *n.* a finger-post.
- Cub**, *n.* a hutch for rabbits; *v.* to confine in a small space. 'It's a shame to cub them poor bastes up in that 'ole uv a place.'
- Cuckoo's-maid** or **Cuckoo's-mate**, *n.* the Wry-neck.
- Cullin'**, *n.* refuse corn.
- Culver**, *n.* a culvert.
- Cunny-thumbed**, *adj.* applied to a boy who shoots his marbles from the thumb-nail instead of from the knuckle of the thumb.
- Cups-and-saucers**, *n.* acorn cups.
- Cuther**, *v.* to whisper confidentially.
- Cutlins**, *n.* barley slightly bruised and cleared of the husk, used for stuffing pig's (or hog's) puddings.
- Dabble**, *v.* to paddle in water with the hands or feet.
- Dabbly weather**, *adj.* uncertain, showery.
- Dabster**, *n.* an expert.
- Dadduck**, *n.* dry rotten wood, &c.
- Dag**, *v.* to draggle, or trail in the mud.
- Daow-bit** (dew-bit), *n.* a morsel of food taken immediately after rising early in the morning.
- Daub**, *v.* to soil. 'Yŷ shaunt gŏö, I tell yŷ, *daubin'* yer best things all over.'
- Dayus**, *n.* a dairy.
- Despert** (desperate) *adv.* remarkably, as '*despert* cold,' '*despert* good,' &c.
- Didguck**, *n.* a boy's game played with sharpened sticks.
- Differ**, *v.* to quarrel.
- Dink**, *v.* to toss, as a nurse tosses a baby.
- Dither**, *v.* to shake or tremble from cold or from fright. 'The wind was that piercin' it seemed to gŏö thraough un; it made me all uv a *dither*.'
- Do-her-mouth**, *v.* to kiss a girl.

Dob, *n.* a lump, as 'a dob a fat'; 'a dob a shuet' (suet).

Dock, *v.* to cut off the end of a horse's tail. To stop wages.

Dodment, *n.* grease from the axle of a wheel, &c. That from the gudgeons or axle of a church bell is supposed to be a cure for the shingles.

Dog, *n.* a piece of iron having its ends sharpened and bent at right angles. Its use is to hold timber firmly in its place on the saw pit while being sawn up.

Dog-daisy, *n.* a wild flower, the blossom of which resembles that of a daisy.

Dog-hook, *n.* a hook used by sawyers or woodmen in rolling or moving heavy trees or logs of wood.

Dollup, *n.* a quantity.

Dolly (1) *n.* the wooden instrument used by laundresses. (2) *v.* To use the dolly.

Dolly-doosey, *n.* a doll.

Domber, *v.* to smoulder. 'I 'anged my bwoy's wet things afore the fire to dry, an' in the marnin' I fund 'em *dombered* an' *dombered* all away.'

- **Donny**, *n.* the hand (used in talking to children). 'Be 'is *donnies* acaowd? come 'is ways an' warm 'um a bit.'

Double, *n.* a baby's napkin (? derived from 'doublet').

Douk, *v.* to duck the head. 'You must *douk* yer yud to get thraough that little doer.'

Dowdy, *adj.* of very quiet, homely habits. Old-fashioned.

Dowst, *n.* a blow.

Dowt, *v.* to extinguish (? 'do out'). 'Mind as you dowts the candle safe, w'en yū be got into bed.'

Dozen-of-bread, *n.* two half-quartern loaves, probably so-called because loaves used to be sold at sixpence each, or two for a dozen pence, their size varying according to the price of corn.

Drag-harrow or **Dray-harrow**, *n.* a heavy, deep-furrowing harrow.

Draft, *n.* a quarter of a ton.

Drapper-pin, *n.* the iron pin or swivel on which the front (or fore) axle of a carriage turns.

Dribble, *v.* to run with a feeble slender stream.

Drift, *n.* an iron instrument used by coopers for driving hoops on casks.

Drift-pin, *n.* a round iron instrument for driving pegs, &c., out of holes.

Dromedary, *n.* a dull, stupid person.

Dry, *adj.* thirsty. 'I be a very little yutter (eater) and am sildum adry.'

Dry-skin, *adj.* droll. 'E's a *dry-skin* sart of a chap; 'e's sure tũ make yũ loff w'en ũ (he) opens 'is mouth.'

Dubbid, *adj.* blunt.

Duck's-frost, *n.* a wet night.

Dummill, *n.* a useless article; a stupid or mischievous child is often called a 'young *dummill*.'

Dummuck, *n.* same as dummill.

Dumpty, *adj.* short and thick.

Dunch, *v.* to give a blow with the elbow.

Ean, *v.* to bring forth young (of sheep).

Edge-o'-night, *n.* at dusk or evening.

Eekle, *n.* the Wood-pecker. (Also called the Stock-eekle.)

Eekle-hole, *n.* a small hole in the trunk of a tree, usually produced by a wood-pecker, and which indicates that the tree is hollow.

Ell-rake, *n.* a large rake used in gathering up hay (? heel-rake).

Ellun, *n.* Elder.

Elven, *n.* Elm.

Empt, *v.* to empty.

Enow, *adj.* enough; a sufficient number. 'You be *enow* on yũ to yut (eat) that pig, much mōore to carry 'im.' (Plural only, in the singular *enough* is used.)

Entany, *n.* a narrow passage, or bye-street. In Pershore there is a narrow passage leading out of Bridge Street, called 'Bachelor's *Entany*.'

Ether, *n.* an adder.

Etherin (ethering), *n.* briars or slender branches used for binding the upper part of a newly laid hedge.

Ettles, *n.* nettles.

Ever-anons-while, at frequent intervals. (Not often used now.)

Ever-so, if it was *ever so* = reduced to the last extremity. 'I öödn't ex 'im fur bread, nat if it was *ever so*; I'd famish fust.'

Fad, (1) *n.* a whim; a fancy. (2) *v.* To be busy about trifles.

(1) 'What are those railings for, John?' 'Oh, it's just a

fad uv 'is lardship's, nothin' but a *fad* uv 'is'n, yŭ knaow ; thay be o' no sart o' use.' (2) 'The gaffer's a gettin' very wake an' childish, 'e caunt do much ; 'e just *fads* about uv a marnin' like.'

Faddy, *adj.* fanciful ; whimsical.

Faggit, *n.* a term of reproach applied to females.

Faggits, *n.* minced liver seasoned with herbs.

Fainty-bag, *n.* a lady's fancy bag.

Fair-in (fairing), *n.* a present purchased at a fair.

Fall, *v.* to fell (as applied to trees). *n.* The timber periodically cut down in a wood.

False, *adj.* deceitful, two-faced.

Famished (or famill'd), *adj.* starved ; very hungry.

Feather-groom, *n.* a term facetiously applied to a man who has charge of poultry.

Felt, *n.* the Red-wing.

Fettle, *v.* to set to rights ; to prepare. 'This room's all uv a mulluck, it wans (wants) *fettlin* up a bit.' In good fettle =
- in good condition.

Fiddle-about, *v.* See *Piddle about*.

Filler, *n.* the shaft-horse. See *Thiller*.

Find-liss, *n.* any article found by accident ; treasure-trove.

Fine, *adj.* To talk *fine* is to speak genteelly.

Fire-new or **Fire-bran-new**, *adj.* quite new.

Fit, *adj.* ready ; prepared. 'Well, Jack uf thee bist *fit*, we'll rowt out a faow mööre o' thase ere taters.'

Fitcher, *n.* a pole-cat.

Fidther, *v.* to make a slight rustling sound, as a mouse or a rat does amongst straw, &c.

Fits-and-girds, *n.* irregularly ; by fits and starts.

Flake-hurdles, *n.* hurdles made with closely intertwined brush-wood or twigs.

Flem (flean), *n.* a lance or lancet for bleeding cattle.

Flen, *n.* fleas.

Fleshy, *adj.* fledged (applied to young birds).

Fletcher or **Flatcher**, *n.* a dam over which water flows.

Flewed, *adj.* (of a hoop) to be made larger on one side than on the other, so that it may fit the taper shape of a cask.

Flower-knot, *n.* a small flower-bed.

- Fore-ladder** (pronounced *Fore-ladther*), *n.* a movable rack attached to the front of a waggon.
- Fore-top**, *n.* a hackle of coloured horse-hair used as a head ornament for a horse.
- Forjitting**, *n.* a mixture of cow-dung and mortar used for plastering the inside of chimneys.
- Forjit**, *n.* a piece of leather forming part of the finger of a glove.
- Forrad**, *v.* to bring forward; to promote. 'This ere drap o' rain ull *forrad* the craps.'
- Fossit**, *n.* See *Spiggit-and-Fossit*.
- Fot**, *v.* fetched. 'I fot 'im a paowt o' the yud ööth my stick.'
- Frail**, *n.* a basket made with plaited segs or rushes.
- Franzy**, *adj.* passionate.
- Fresh**, *adj.* intoxicated.
- Fresh-liquor**, *n.* hog's lard unsalted.
- Fritch**, *adj.* conceited; vain. 'You a no call to be so *fritch*, if yū have got a new frock on!'
- Frog**, *n.* the soft part of a horse's hoof.
- Frog-stool**, *n.* a kind of fungus; a toadstool.
- From-ard**, or **from-mud**, *n.* a tool used for splitting poles, &c.
- Frum**, *adj.* fully ripe; in good condition.
- '**Furder-a-fild**' = farther off.
- Furnace**, *n.* a large boiler fixed in brick-work. In London called a copper.
- Fulling**, *n.* the groove in a horse shoe to receive the heads of the nails.
- Fuzzen**, *n.* gorse; furze.
- Gaffer**, *n.* master. 'Wer's the *gaffer*? I wants to ex 'im if 'e caunt find a job fur ower Tom.'
- Gain**, *adj.* handy; expert; convenient. 'Take the 'oss an' lave 'im at the blacksmith's as thū gwust by; that'll be the gainest way.'
- Gallus**, *adj.* wicked; impudent. 'I be reg'lar ashum'd uv our Alfred, 'e's sich a *gallus* little chap, there yunt nobody as 'e wunt sauce.'
- Gambrel**, *n.* a bar of wood by which butchers hang up the carcasses of sheep, &c.

Gammits, *n.* jokes; tricks. ' 'E's allus up to some gammit er another, instid o' mindin' 'is work.'

Gan, *v. a.* gave.

Garden-gate, *n.* Heartsease or Pansy.

Gaum, *v.* to handle articles in a manner calculated to damage or mar their appearance.

Gawn, *n.* a tub holding about a gallon, and usually having a handle projecting upwards on one side (? corruption of 'gallon').

Gay, *n.* a swing, or see-saw.

Gets, *v.* gains. ' My watch (a pronounced as in catch) *gets*, I must put 'im back a bit.'

Giggling, *adj.* light; unsteady. ' Don't get into that there bwut if there's nobuddy along ööth yŷ as con swim; it's a gigglin' thing, an' you'll sure to be drowned.'

Gin, *v. p.* gave (g hard).

Glany, *n.* a guinea fowl.

Gleed, *n.* the red embers of a fire.

Gob, *n.* a quantity of spittle or expectorated matter discharged from the mouth, &c.

Go-back, *v.* to die. ' I'm afear'd my ööman 'll *goo back*; 'er's that wake (weak) 'er cun 'ardly stond wen 'er gets up out uv 'er cheer' (chair).

Golden-chain, *n.* Laburnum.

Gondud, *n.* a gander.

Gon-sarn-yŷ! Gon-sarn-it! } Expletives.
Gon-shume-yŷ! Gon-shume-it! }

Gööa, *v.* go. (As I have never heard any but old persons pronounce the word 'go' in this way, it is probable that it is not now to be heard at all.)

Good-sarted, *adj.* of good kind. ' We've got some very *good-sarted* fruit in our archud.'

Good-shut, *adv.* a good riddance.

Göö-off, *n.* beginning. ' The pawson gan mü this 'ere cööt, an' 'e a lasted mü five er six year. I didn't wear 'im every day thaough, nat at the fust göö-off yŷ knaow.'

Gowt, *n.* a short drain.

Graft, or **Grafting-tool**, *n.* a narrow crescent-shaped spade used by drainers.

Grainch, *v.* to grind the teeth; to make a grinding sound.

Grass-nail, *n.* the hook which supports the scythe in its attachment to the 'sned.'

Great, *adj.* on very friendly terms.

Gret-work, *n.* piece work. Working by the *gret* = working by the piece instead of by the day or hour.

Grist, *n.* corn to be ground (applied to small quantities).

Grist-mill, *n.* a mill for grinding small quantities.

Ground-aish, *n.* an ash sapling.

Ground, *n.* a field.

Grout, *n.* coarse mortar used in an almost liquid state.

Grump, *v.* to crunch with the teeth any hard or dry substance, such as grains of uncooked rice, &c.

Gubbon-hole, *n.* a sink for the reception of dirty water, &c.

Gull, *n.* a young goose.

Gullup, *v.* to swallow down. 'I sin (saw) one a them there great cranes a gulluppin' down a frog.'

Gurgins, *n.* fine bran.

Gwain or **Gwainin**, *v.* going. 'I shaunt stop to work in this 'ere rain no longer; I be wet thraow now, an' I be a *gwainin* wum.'

Gyawky, *n.* a stupid, awkward person.

Gyaup, *v.* to stare. 'Get on o' thee work ööt, don't stond gyaupin' there.'

Hack-an'-haow (hack-and-hew) *v.* to stumble or hesitate over reading or speaking. 'Why doesn't spell the words, an' nat stond 'ackin' an' haowin' athattens.'

Hacker, *n.* a chopper used by hedgers.

Hack-rake, *v.* to rake the hay together after it has been spread out to dry.

Haggle, *v.* to dispute. **Haggling**, *v.* prolonged bargaining.

Half-soaked, *adj.* silly; of weak intellect.

Hand, on the mending hand, recovering; convalescent. 'The faver a made 'im very wake, but 'e's *on the mendin'* 'ond now.'

Hand-barrow, *n.* a barrow or carriage without a wheel, but with a pair of handles at each end, by which to carry it.

Hanker, *v.* See *Onker*.

Haowt, *v.* hold. 'Now then lay haowt o'this 'ere shuppick an' set to work ööt.'

Happen = perhaps.

Hard-o'-hearing, *adj.* deaf.

Hardi-shraow, *n.* the shrew-mouse.

Hare-shore, *n.* a hare-lip.

Hay-ud (Hayward), *n.* an officer whose duty it was (when the fields were unenclosed) to impound stray cattle, tithe crops, warn off trespassers, &c.

Hay-riff, *n.* a creeping plant, the seeds of which stick to the clothing or to the coats of animals with great tenacity.

Heart-well or **Heart-whole**, *adj.* well; in general health. 'How are you now, Jacob?' 'Well, I be 'eart-well, thenk yŷ, but I a got the rheumatics in me shöolder martle bad.'

Heaver, *n.* the same as 'lift.' (See *Lift*.)

Hedge-betty, *n.* a hedge-sparrow.

Hedger, *n.* a man who lays or mends hedges.

Heft, *v.* weight. 'Just *heft* this 'ere young un, yunt 'e a weight?'

Hegglar (higgler), *n.* an itinerant dealer in eggs, poultry, &c.

Helve, *n.* the handle of an axe or hatchet. In the nursery rhyme 'One two, buckle my shoe,' &c., we have 'Eleven twelve a hatchet *helve*.'

Herts, *n.* tow or oakum.

Herden, *adj.* made of *herds*; coarse canvas.

Hern = hers. 'W'at's 'ern's 'is'n, an' w'at's 'isn's 'ern.'

Hips, *n.* dog-rose berries.

Hip-briar, *n.* the wild rose tree.

His'n his.

Hit, *n.* the quality of a crop, or result of an undertaking, as 'a good *hit* of fruit.' 'He made a good *hit* when he took that shap.'

Hob, *n.* a third swarm of bees from the same hive in one season.

Hobbady-hoy = hobble-de-hoy.

Hobbady-lantern, *n.* the ignis fatuus, or Will-o'-th'-wisp.

Hob-ferrit, *n.* a male ferret.

Hobli-onkers, *n.* chestnuts.

Hockey, *n.* See *Bandy*.

Hockle, *v.* to shuffle along, or to walk with difficulty. 'We sh'll a some wet I be afeard; my earns plagues mŷ so as I caunt 'ardly 'ockle along.'

Hod-bow-lud, *n.* a large moth.

- Hog's-puddings**, *n.* chitterlings stuffed with cutlins seasoned with herbs, &c.
- Hogshead**, *n.* a cask capable of containing 100 gallons.
- Homes**, *n.* part of the harness of cart-horses, fitting upon the collar, and to which the traces are fastened.
- Hommock** or **hammock plough**, *n.* a plough shorter than the 'long-plough,' but longer than the G. O. plough.
- Hommucks**, *n.* feet. 'Keep thee great 'ommucks off my toes
ööt, thy fit be like two great barges.'
- Honesty**, *n.* a creeping plant, common in old hedges.
- Honey-dew**, *n.* a kind of blight which covers the leaves of plants with a viscous covering something like honey.
- Hoot**, *v.* to shout. The noise made by a wheel in motion when the axle requires greasing, is also called *hooting*.
- Hooter**, *n.* a cone-shaped tin vessel for heating beer, &c.
- Hoove**, *n.* a hoe; *v.* to hoe.
- Horry-long-legs** (Harry-long-legs) *n.* the daddy-long-legs (insect).
- Horse-stinger**, *n.* the dragon-fly.
- Hotchel**, *v.* same as 'hockle.'
- Housen**, *n.* houses.
- Houzin**, *n.* a broad piece of leather resting on a horse's collar, and standing erect behind the hames.
- Hud**, *n.* a husk or shell. 'I a bin a 'uddin' some bannits, an' they makes my 'onds pretty nigh black.'
- Huff** (1) *v.* to offend; (2) *n.* a fit of temper.
- Hulking**, *adj.* lazy, idling.
- Hulls**, *n.* husks or shells (same as 'huds').
- Humbugs**, *n.* sweetmeats; sugar-plums.
- Hum-buzz**, *n.* a cockchafer.
- Hurter**, *n.* a thick piece of iron fastened to a wooden axle, against which the back of the wheel works.
- Iffing-and-Offing**, *v.* in a state of indecision.
- Ill-convanient**, *adj.* inconvenient.
- Ilt** or **hilt**, *n.* a young sow.
- Inch-meal**, *adv.* bit by bit, or little by little.
- Innuds** (innards), *n.* the bowels.

Inuns, *n.* onions. 'What have you and your brother been fighting about, James?' 'Why he said he'd tromple my inun bed all to pieces, so I drapped it on 'im.'

In-winding, *adj.* uneven; twisted.

Jack, *n.* a machine for lifting heavy weights.

Jack-a-makin'-pan-cakes, the reflected sunlight thrown upon the ceiling from the surface of water, &c.

Jack-an'-is-lantern (Jack-o-lantern), *n.* a Will-o'-th'-wisp.

Jack-hare, *n.* a male hare.

Jacky-stones, *n.* rather small and extremely hard fossilated shells common in red gravel.

Jiffey, *n.* an instant. 'I'll be there in half a jiffey.' *I'll be there immediately.*

Jill-ferret, *n.* a female ferret.

Jilly-flower, *n.* a wallflower.

Jobb, *v.* to stab with a sharp instrument. 'How did Sally lose the sight of her eye?' 'Why, w'en 'er wuz a young 'er *jobbed* the pwint o' the scissors in 'er eye.'

Joggle, *v.* to shake; to totter.

Jommuck, *v.* to shake about roughly.

Jonnuck, *n.* one who always pays his full share in a reckoning for beer, &c.

Josey, *n.* a toad.

Jumper, *n.* a blow-fly maggot.

Jumping-stock or **Jump-jack**, *n.* two upright sticks and a cross-piece for children to jump over.

Junder (gender), *n.* frog-spawn, frequently called 'toads' *junder*.'

Jussly (justly), *adv.* exactly.

Keen, *v.* to sharpen.

Keep (1) *v.* to *keep* a market is to attend it, with something to sell. (2) *n.* food. 'There's some good *keep* in the meadow for the cows now.' 'What bist a gwain to 'ave at thee new place?' 'Ten shillin' a wik an' me *keep*.'

Keffle, *n.* anything of bad or inferior quality.

Kernel, *n.* a hard swelling or indurated gland.

Kernuck or **Curnock**, *n.* a measure of barley of four bushels.

Kicked-the-bucket, *v.* died.

Kid, *n.* a faggot of sticks.

Kindle, *v.* to bring forth young (rabbits).

Knerly (gnarly), *adj.* knotty (applied to timber).

Knitting-shear, *n.* a small sheath into which knitters insert the end of the knitting needle.

Know to, *v.* to know of. 'Plaze, miss, ööd you like a young lennet? Cos I *knaows to* a nist.' Or 'I *knaows to* some nisses.'

Kyind, *adj.* favourable; in good condition. 'We shaunt 'ave many curran's this year, but the plums seems very *kyind*.'

Kyipe, *n.* a basket.

'Kyonder or **'Kyander**, *v.* look yonder.

Lade-gawn, *n.* a ladle or long-handled gawn, for serving out pigs' wash from the cistern.

Ladies'-smock, *n.* a common wild flower.

Lady-cow, *n.* the lady-bird.

Lafe or **lef**, *n.* the fat lining taken from the inside of the carcase of a pig.

Laggy, *adj.* (applied to timber), having a natural crack inside, frequently with a portion of bark (then called 'bark-lag').

Lands, *n.* the ridges into which cultivated fields are formed for facilitating drainage.

Lap, *v.* to wrap up, to lop off branches of trees; *n.* the lopped-off branches of trees.

Lath-render, *n.* a maker of laths.

Lay (a hedge), *v.* to cut away all the over-growth of an old hawthorn hedge, and to arrange or relay the young wood.

Lay-in, *v.* cost. 'My trip to Lunnun *lay mū in* a sovereign, one way an' another.'

Laze, *n.* idleness; *v.* to glean (often pronounced le-uz).

Lazing-bag, *n.* a packet in which *lazers* or gleaners collect the 'short ears' (of corn.) See '*Poking*.'

Lazy-back, *n.* an iron frame hung over the fire upon which to rest a frying-pan, &c.; a hard lump of unkneaded flour in a loaf of bread.

Leaf, *n.* See *Lafe*.

Learn, *v.* to teach.

Leather, *v.* to beat.

Leatherun, *adj.* made of leather.

Leatherun-bat, *n.* the common bat.

Lections, *n.* chances, probabilities. 'There's no *lections* of enny rain just it.'

Lew-warm, *adj.* lukewarm.

Lezzow, *n.* a meadow.

Lick (1) *n.* a blow. 'E gin the dog a *lick* ööth 'is stick.' (2) *v.* To wipe over lightly. 'The flur's shameful dirty, but we mustn't wet 'im; jus' give 'im a *lick* over ööt Mary?' (3) To beat, or to conquer in a game or in fighting, &c.

Lift, *n.* a stile which can be lifted out of its place to permit the passage of cattle or vehicles, &c. Also called a *heaver*.

Lights, *n.* the lungs.

Limmel, *adv.* torn in pieces. 'He tore him *limmel*.'

Lin-pin, *n.* a linch-pin.

Lissom, *adj.* active.

List, *n.* the selvedge edge of flannel or of woollen cloth.

Live, *adv.* willingly. 'I'd as live goo as stop.'

Locks-and-kays (keys), *n.* the leaves of the ash.

Logger, *n.* a thick lump of wood attached to a horse's leg to prevent its straying.

Lollock, *v.* to lean about in an idle, listless manner.

Long-hundud (long-hundred), *n.* 1 cwt.; 112 lbs.

Long-plough, *n.* an old-fashioned wooden plough with long beam and long tails or handles.

Loose, *v.* to go alone (said of young children), frequently pronounced *laowse*.

Louse-kiver, *n.* a vulgar name for a hat or cap.

Louse-pasture, *n.* a vulgar expression, signifying the hair of the head, or the scalp.

Lug, *v.* to pull.

Lumbersome, *adj.* cumbrous.

Lungeous, *adj.* rough at play; cruel; unnecessarily severe in chastising children.

Luny, *adj.* imbecile; lunatic.

Lush, *v.* to beat with green boughs. 'Ööt come along o' me to take some waasps' nisses? Thee cunst pull out the cake wile I *lushes*.'

Lush, *n.* a green bough for beating, as above.

Lye, *n.* water in which wood-ashes have been infused.

Mag, (1) *n.* a scold, (2) *v.* to scold.

Maggit, *n.* a magpie.

Maiden-swarm, *n.* a swarm of bees coming from a swarm of the same year.

Market-peart, *adj.* half intoxicated.

Marl or **Marvil**, *n.* a marble.

Masonter, *n.* a mason.

Maul, *v.* to handle roughly or offensively.

Mawkin, *n.* a scarecrow; also a bundle of rags tied to a stick and used for cleansing the floor of an oven. (To prevent its setting on fire, the mawkin is first dipped in water.)

Mawl-stick, *n.* a heavy piece of wood used for driving stakes, &c., into the ground.

Mawsey, *adj.* over ripe; soft; dry rotten; or like a turnip which has lost all its moisture. 'As *mawsey* as a turnit,' is a common expression of contempt for a foolish person. 'You great *mawsey*' = 'You great fool.'

May-sick (barley), *adj.* an unkind appearance often presented by a crop of barley in May is called May-sickness.

Mesh-tub (mash-tub), *n.* a large tub in which the malt is steeped in hot water for brewing.

Mend-your-draught, *v.* = 'drink again.'

Mess, *n.* term of contempt for anything small or weak. 'It's a poor little *mess* uv a thing.'

Messengers, *n.* morsels of mould which come out with the beer from a cask that is nearly empty.

Metheglin, *n.* liquor made from honey. (Also called 'mead').

Middling, *adj.* unwell; indifferent. *Very middling*, very ill; very bad. *Pretty middling*, fairly well.

Miff, *n.* a misunderstanding. 'Went off in a '*miff*' = went away offended.

Millud, *n.* a miller. 'The *millud*, the mollud, the ten o'clock scollud.' A derisive song in use amongst school boys.

Mimmucking, *adj.* affected in manner; lacking heartiness; dainty in appetite.

Mishtiful, *adj.* mischievous.

Miss, *n.* loss. 'Sally a bin that spwiled, 'er don't knaow w'en 'er's well off.' 'Er'll feel the *miss* on it w'en 'er mother's dyud.'

Miskin, *n.* a dung-hill or refuse heap.

Misword, *n.* angry word. 'E wuz a good mon to me; we wuz morried farty year, an' 'e never so much as gin mū a *misword*.'

Mizzle, *v.* to rain slightly; to depart abruptly.

Mock, *v.* to imitate; to mimic.

Moggy, *n.* a calf.

Moil, *v.* to toil.

Moithered, *v.* to be dazed or delirious. 'Is yud a bin bad all night; 'e seems *moithered* like.'

Momble, *v.* to puzzle.

Mombed, *adj.* puzzled; bewildered; worried.

Mommit or **Mommuck**, *n.* an untidily or absurdly dressed person.

Mommy, *n.* a repulsive shapeless mass. 'That good-fur-nothin' mon uv 'ern cum wum drunk an' knocked 'er about an' kicked 'er 't'll 'er face wus all uv a *mommy*.'

Mon-ondle (man-handle), *v.* to use the hands instead of levers, &c., in rolling trunks of trees or other heavy bodies.

Moon-daisy or **Moons**, *n.* the ox-eyed daisy.

Moorish (moreish), *adj.* of such good quality that more would be desirable.

Mop, *n.* a hiring fair.

Morris, *v.* to go away; to march off. 'Now you bwoys you'd better *morris*.'

Morris-dance, *n.* a dance performed by six or eight men be-decked with ribbons, to the music of the mouth-organ, or other homely instrument. In the neighbourhood of Pershore the morris-dancers go out for about ten days at Christmas-tide, accompanied by their musician and a 'tom-fool.' The 'tom-fool' carries in one hand a bladder tied to a stick, and in the other a kind of wooden spoon or bowl, in which he collects the contributions of the spectators.* In addition to this duty, he is supposed to amuse the bystanders with

* The writer well remembers the intense pleasure he used to experience (some fifty years ago) at the sound of "Ben the Drummer's" mouth organ and drum, and the "clack," "clack," of the Morris-dancers' sticks; taking care however to keep at a respectful distance, being unable to shake off the mysterious dread which he entertained of the "tom-fool" and his bladder.

funny sayings and antics. These, however, are often uncouth and rather deficient in fun. A gentleman (now deceased), who lived at Wick once remarked, 'I thought morris-dancers always had an artificial fool, but I see you have a natural one.' He also runs after the boys and (if he can catch them) strikes them with his bladder. Besides being ornamented with ribbons rather more fantastically than the dancers, the fool carries a small bell concealed somewhere about his person, which keeps up a constant tinkling. Sometimes also his face is painted after the fashion of the ordinary stage clown. The morris-dancers go through certain figures, country dances, 'the figure of eight,' &c., and at certain parts of the tune stand face to face and mark the time with short sticks—one of which each man carries in his right hand—striking them together with a pleasant and not unmusical sound. In some of the dances each man carries, instead of the stick, a large coloured handkerchief, which at given parts of the tune he swings over his shoulder; and this action being performed simultaneously by all the dancers, the effect is picturesque and pretty.

Morum, *n.* a mechanical invention; an ingenious idea; boyish tricks, if somewhat clever or ingenious, are frequently called '*morums*.'

Mother, *n.* a kind of jelly which forms in vinegar; a large stone used by boys in a rough game called 'quack.'

Motty, *n.* a mark to aim at with marbles, or to shoot at.

Mouch, *v.* to go prying about. 'That aowd black cat gwuz mouchin' about, in an' out uv folkse's 'ousen; 'er 'll sure to get shot one uv thase days.'

Mould, *v.* to hoe up the earth to the roots of potatoes.

Mow, *n.* the part of a barn which is filled with straw, &c.

Mudgin, *n.* the fat off a pig's chitterlings. (Also called the '*tippit*.'

Mullen, *n.* the bridle of a cart-horse.

Mullock (1) *n.* dirt; litter. (2) *v.* To make a litter.

Mullin, *n.* the bridle of a cart-horse.

Mumruffin, *n.* the long-tailed-tit.

Murfeys, *n.* potatoes.

Mwile, *v.* to bedaub with mud, &c.

My Nabs, 'I had some suspicion as 'e took some a thũ eggs, so I took un 'id (hid) myself in the 'ens'-roost, an' I just ketched "my nabs" in thũ act.'

Nag, or **Naggle**, *v.* to scold incessantly and unnecessarily.

Naight, *n.* an ait or eyot; an osier bed.

Nail-passer, *n.* a gimlet.

Naint, *n.* aunt.

Nale, *v.* to anneal; to soften or toughen iron (a blacksmith's term).

Nalls, *n.* belongings. 'Pick up your nalls and cut,' is a form of ordering an objectionable person to leave.

Naowf (an oaf) *n.* See *Aowf*.

Nast, *n.* dirt; filth.

Nay-word, *n.* a by-word.

Near, *adj.* mean; stingy.

Nerrun, *adv.* (never-a-one), not one.

Nesh, *adj.* tender; delicate; susceptible of cold.

Nibbs, *n.* the pair of handles to a scythe 'sned.'

Nick, *n.* a notch in the edge of a knife.

Nicker, *v.* to laugh rudely. 'Nickerin' an' grinnin,' laughing unseasonably and rudely.

Nifle, *v.* to nifle about, is to go from one job to another and to make little progress with either.

Nifle-pin, *n.* a pretended occupation, which is really an excuse for being idle.

Nild, *n.* a needle.

Nile, *n.* the shorter portion of a flail (or threshel).

Nineted, *adj.* notorious. Of a person of bad character, 'E's a nineted un, 'e is.' (Corruption of anointed.)

Ninety-bird, *n.* same as above.

Ninkumpoop, *n.* a silly, upstart fellow.

Nip, *v.* to go quickly; to make a short cut; *n.* same as *nick*.

Nipper, *n.* a youngster.

Nisgull, *n.* the smallest of a brood of poultry.

Night-cap, *n.* a pig's stomach (also called the 'tom-hodge').

Nithering, *v.* same as 'nickerin'; also, shivering with cold.

Nobby, prefixed as a pet name to colts—nobby-colt.

Noggen (pronounced nogg'n), *adj.* clumsy.

Nor, *adv.* than (pronounced *nur*).

Noration, *n.* an oration; a speech.

Nubblings, *n.* small bits of coal.

Nun, *n.* a small piece of wood used in the game of bandy or hockey (also called a *cat*). See *Bandy*.

Nunch or **Nunchin**, *n.* luncheon.

Nuncle, *n.* uncle.

Nut, *n.* a small piece of iron to screw on the end of a bolt; a burr.

Nut, *n.* the head. 'I'll warm yer nut' = 'I'll punch your head.'

'Od-bowlud, *n.* See *Hod-bowl-ud*.

Odd, *adj.* strange; peculiar.

Odds, *v.* to alter. 'We none on us likes this place so well as w're we be used to live, an' we be sorry as ever us shifted; but we caunt *odds* it now.' 'What odds is it?' = 'Of what importance is it?' 'What odds is it to you?' = 'What business is it of yours?'

Offl (offal), *n.* waste of any kind; the liver, heart, lungs, &c., of a pig.

Off-'is-yud, *adj.* mad; out of his mind.

Old-maid, *n.* a kind of fly which bites and torments cattle.

Old-man, *n.* Southern wood (a shrub).

Old-woman picking her geese, *v.* snowing.

Old yaow (ewe) **dressed lom** (lamb) **fashion**, *n.* an elderly woman dressed in the style of a juvenile.

'Ond-stick (hand-stick), *n.* the longer portion of a flail; the part held in the hand.

Onker (hanker), *v.* to covet or long for a thing.

'Ontcher, *n.* a handkerchief.

'Ontle, *n.* a handful.

Ööd-pile, *n.* a wood stack.

Öönderment (wonderment), *n.* a strange or wonderful story; or a 'nine days' wonder.'

Öönt, *n.* a mole. 'As slick as a öönt,' a common expression signifying very smooth.

Öös-bird, *n.* an illegitimate child.

Otheren, *adj.* alternate. 'Every *otheren* one' = 'every alternate one.'

Ourn, *pron.* ours.

Out-ride, *n.* a commercial traveller.

Oven-stopliss, *n.* an oven lid.

Over-get, *v.* to recover from. 'It 'urt mǻ so w'en I buried my little un, that I didn't *overget* it all the summer.'

Out, 'making a *goodish out*,' or a '*poorish out*,' are terms applied to any undertaking when successful or the reverse.

Owlud, *n.* an owl.

Owlud's-quid, *n.* the remains of a mouse, bird, or other animal upon which an owl has made a meal, and having extracted all the fleshy portion, disgorges in a compact mass somewhat in the shape of the finger. (Labouring man disdainfully of a person who had mentioned somewhat ostentatiously having partaken of a finger-biscuit.) 'Finger biscuit! Why I cun remember the time w'en 'er öödn't a knaow'd a finger biscuit from a *owlud's quid*.'

Owner, *n.* the owner of a boat or barge, as *Owner Low*, *Owner Smith*, *Owner Rice*, &c.

Own to, *v.* to admit or to confess to having committed a fault.

Paddle, *n.* a kind of diminutive spade with a long handle. It is used by the farmer for the double purpose of a walking-staff, and for cutting up thistles or other weeds with which he may come in contact, as he goes about his fields.

Paout, *n.* a hard knock with a stick, or similar instrument, upon a hard substance.

Pass (applied to a bell), *v.* to toll the bell at the death of a person.

Peark, *n.* a lineal measurement of eight yards.

Peasy-pouse, *n.* peas and beans growing together.

Peart, *adj.* bright; lively; in good spirits.

Peckid, *adj.* peaked, pointed.

Pelt, *v.* to throw stones at a person; *n.* the skin.

Pendle (of a clock), *n.* the pendulum.

Perished, *adj.* pinched with cold. 'Come 'is ways, poor little saowl, he's amwust *perished*.'

Pick, *n.* a pick-axe.

Pick-up-his-crumbs = to regain health after sickness.

Pick-thank, *n.* a censorious person; one fond of finding fault.

Piddle, *v.* to make water.

Piddle-about, *v.* to do a little work in a leisurely manner and according to one's own choice. (Not much used now; to 'fiddle' about seems to have taken the place of this expression.)

Piece, *n.* (1) a field, as 'Read's Piece,' 'Withey Piece,' 'Glide Piece,' &c. (2) A slice of bread. 'I be famished, mother; gie mū a piece o' fittle.' (3) Contemptuous epithet. 'Er caunt do much, 'er's a very poor piece.'

Piece-o'-work, *n.* a fuss.

Pie-finch, *n.* a chaffinch.

Pigs'-puddings, *n.* See *Hogs'-puddings*.

Pigs'-wesh, *n.* pigs'-wash; the waste milk, broth, &c., reserved for the pigs.

Pikelet, *n.* a crumpet; a sort of cake composed of flour and water.

Piles, *n.* the beard of barley.

Piling-iron, *n.* an instrument used for detaching the piles from the grains of barley.

Pill, *n.* a shallow well, fed with surface water.

Pin, *n.* an iron or wooden peg.

Pinkit, *n.* a Will-o'-th'-wisp.

Pinner, *n.* a pinafore.

Pinsens, *n.* pincers.

Piss-a-bed, *n.* the Dandelion.

Piss-aint, *n.* an ant. 'Er screws 'er waist up till 'er looks like a *piss-aint*.'

Pitch-paowl, *v.* to turn head over heels.

Pitcher, *n.* the man who hands up the hay or corn to the loader.

Plaichers, *n.* the thick stems in a hawthorn hedge, which, when a hedge is 'laid,' are left at regular intervals as supports to the smaller wood. They are cut nearly through with a 'hacker' or 'bill-hook' a few inches from the ground, and fixed in an oblique position.

Plaichud, *n.* a plaicher.

Plim, *adj.* to swell in cooking. Bacon killed in the prime of the moon *plims*; that killed in the wane of the moon *boils out*.

Plim or **Plim-bob**, *n.* a plummet.

Plim, *v.* to fix upright by a plummet.

Plough-paddle, *n.* a paddle used for cleansing the plough.

Plough-shoe, *n.* a piece of iron fastened to the side of the 'throck' to prevent its wearing away with the friction with the soil.

Poke, *v.* to glean a cornfield a second or third time; *n.* the peak of a cap.

Poking, *v.* gleaning or leazing in a field a second time. (Probably so-called because most of the gleanings consist of ears of corn only, which have to be put into a poke or pocket.)

Porker or **Porket**, *n.* a pig suitable for killing for pork.

Pot, *n.* a measure of fruit or potatoes of about five pecks; a basket holding a pot.

Pot-fruit, *n.* such as will be sold by the pot; eating fruit, as distinguished from the rough sorts used for cider, &c.; it is usually 'hand-picked' (plucked from the tree by hand), not shaken off.

Prache-ment (preachment), *n.* an oration.

Pretty-Betty, *n.* a flower, also called London Pride.

Prise, *v.* to burst open, or raise up, with a lever.

Prompt, *adj.* a willing or spirited horse is said to be '*prompt*.'

Pry-omble, *n.* a rambling or obscure story, (? preamble).

Puck, *n.* a sty in the eye.

Puck-fyst, *n.* a dried up toadstool. 'I shūd like a drap o' drink, fur I feels as dry as a *puck-fyst*.'

Puffing-crumbs, *n.* soft pieces which often fall from loaves of bread when being taken from the oven.

Pug, *v.* to pull.

Pull-back, *n.* a hindrance.

Punk, *n.* a hard fungus frequently to be found on the trunk of a tree.

Purgatory, *n.* a pit underneath the fire-grate for the reception of the ashes.

Purgy, *adj.* peevish; short-tempered.

Pūt, *n.* a game played with three cards.

Put-about, *v.* to vex or worry. 'That upset along o' the naybers *pūt me about* above a bit.'

Putchen, *n.* an eel-basket, or trap.

Puthery, *adj.* hot; excited.

Pwuddlin'-about, *v.* doing a little work; making a pretence at work, &c. 'E don't do no good; 'e oondly *pwuddles* about in other folks's way.'

Pwud-luck, *n.* (port-lock?), a horizontal bar or beam of wood, one end of which rests in the wall and the other is attached to a scaffold pole, for the purpose of supporting the planks, &c., composing the scaffold used in the construction of a building.

Quack, *n.* a rough game played by boys. Each boy uses a large pebble called a 'quack,' and one of them has to place his quack upon a larger stone called the *mother*; the others then throw at it until they succeed in knocking it off.

Quakers, *n.* quaking grass.

Quarter-barrel, *n.* a cask to hold 25 gallons.

Queer, *adj.* strange in manner. 'E's a queer quist; I caunt make 'im out.'

Quice or **Quist**, *n.* a wood pigeon.

Quick, *n.* young hawthorn plants.

Quiddle, *v.* to suck or 'quid' food in the mouth.

Quilt, *v.* to beat.

Quilting, *n.* a beating.

Qwine, *v.* to line a well with stones or bricks.

Qwining, *n.* the stone or brick lining of a well.

Qwirk, *n.* a small piece of leather forming a portion of the finger of a glove.

Qwop, *v.* to throb.

Rag-stone, *n.* a rough stone used for sharpening scythes, &c.
See *Rubber*.

Rain-bat, *n.* a beetle. (Among children there is a saying that killing one brings rain.)

Raisty, *adj.* rancid.

Rait, *n.* rubbish.

Rally, *v.* to crack or 'smack' a whip.

Ran-thread, *n.* pack-thread.

Random, *adj.* wild; prodigal. Applied to potatoes, &c., which grow up where no seed has intentionally been sown.

Raowt, *n.* rubbish.

Raowy (rowy), *adj.* streaky, as *raowy* bacon.

Ribbit, *n.* a rivet.

Rave, *v.* to bawl out passionately.

Rear, *v.* to rebound as a ball.

Riddle, *n.* a sieve ; a sifter.

Riddliss, *n.* a conundrum or riddle.

Rider, *n.* a piece of wood with which a pair of harrows is connected.

Ridgel, *n.* a half gelded animal.

Right, *adv.* downright. ' 'Er's a right good 'öōman ; there's no sart o' nonsense about 'er.'

Rime, *n.* hoar-frost.

Rip, *v.* to tear ; to rend.

Rise, *v.* food is said to rise when the taste is repeated in the mouth after meals.

Rivle or **Rivel**, *v.* to shrivel or wrinkle, as ' he *rivelled* 'is brow.'

Road, *n.* fashion ; manner. ' That yunt the right *road* to do it : stop a bit, an' let me shaow yū.'

Robble, *n.* a tangle ; *v.* to tangle.

Ropy, *adj.* stringy.

Round, *n.* a spar or step of a ladder.

Rousle, *v.* to rouse.

Rovings, *n.* threads drawn out of a piece of calico, &c.

Rowings, *n.* chaff or refuse from a threshing machine.

Rowt, *v.* to bore into the earth with the snout, as a pig.

Roxed, *adj.* (of a pear), fully ripe and soft ; (of a cough), loosened after being very tight and dry.

Rubber, *n.* a rough stone used for sharpening scythes.

' Whit a whet, the scythe won't cut,
The mower is so lazy.'

Ruck (1) *n.* a fold, or crease ; (2) *v.* to crease.

Rucked-up, *adj.* caught up in folds ; creased.

Ruff or **Rough**, *n.* hilly ground having trees growing upon it, as ' Great Comberton Ruff.'

Ruination, *n.* ruin.

Runner, *n.* the stone roller of a cider mill.

Saded, *adj.* tired. ' I'm sick an' saded o' my job, I caunt do 'im to me mind.'

Sallies, *n.* willow-boughs ; willow trees.

Sally, *n.* the soft tufted portion of a bell-rope ; the wood of the willow.

Sally-bed, *n.* a plantation of willows.

Sapy, *adj.* moist; damp; soft. 'We sh'll have a lot o' rain afore long, this piece o' thunk is as saft and *sapy*.'

Saw-box, *n.* a block of wood having two handles, which is fixed on to the lower end of a pit-saw, and by which the pit sawyer holds and guides his end of the saw.

Scawt, *v.* to push or press on the ground with the feet when lifting or forcing with the back or shoulder, or when coming to a sudden stop, if running. *v.* To boast; to give oneself airs. To place a stone or block behind the wheel of a cart or waggon when going up hill, to prevent its going backwards when the horses stop to rest.

Scog, *v.* to scold.

Scogging, *n.* a scolding.

Scotch, *n.* couch grass. (See *Squitch*.)

Score, *n.* the core of an apple or pear.

Score, *n.* twenty pounds. The weight of a pig is usually specified in *scores*.

Scowl-o'-brow, *n.* judgment by the eye instead of by measurement. 'I dun knaow what all them young chaps wants allus a mizsherin' thur work far. You cun see that yat there, caunt yŷ? 'E 'angs well enough, don't ŷ? Well, I put 'im up on dly by *scowl-o'-brow*.'

Scrat, *v.* to scratch; to work hard; to scrape together. *n.* One who is industrious and frugal. 'Uf 'is wife 'adn't a bin sich a *scrat* thay ŷd all a bin in the work-uss afore now.'

Scratchuns, *n.* the solid remains of a pig's leaf, &c., when the fatty portion has all been melted into lard.

Scrawl, *v.* to crawl.

Screech-owl or **Skreek-owl**, *n.* the Swift.

Scrigglings, *n.* apples stunted in growth, which become ripe and sweet before the general crop of the same tree.

Scrobble, *v.* to creep along on hands and knees. To crawl.

Scrogging, *v.* gathering stray apples left on the trees after the main crop has been gathered.

Scroggings, *n.* the stray apples gathered as above.

Scruff or **Scurf**, *n.* the back of the neck.

Scud, *n.* a slight shower.

Scuffle, *n.* an agricultural implement employed in tearing up the ground; a skirmish.

Sess-him! *v.* said to a dog when urging him on to attack. (Probably from *seize*.) In sending a grey-hound after a hare, the starter cries 'Stoo-loo!'

Set, *v.* to let (a house, field, farm, &c.). 'Them be nice little 'ousen o' Pig-driver Graves's at the top o' the lane; I shūd like tū 'ave one on um, but I ricken thay be all *set* by now.'

Set, *v.* to plant, as trees, shrubs, &c. To plant beans, peas, wheat, &c., by hand with a *setting-pin*.

'Set gilliflowers, all
That grows on the wall.'

—*Tusser's Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry.*

Shacklety, *adj.* shaky; all uv a shackle=very much out of repair.

Shade, *v.* to comb the hair. 'It means the parting of the hair on the head' (*Halliwel*). 'Akere look, Sally; thee just *shade* thee 'air, and nat look sieh a great mawkin.'

Shaowl or **Shool,** *n.* a shovel.

Shard, *n.* a gap or opening in a hedge.

Sheed, *v.* to shed. Peas, beans, &c., are said to *sheed* when they are so dry and ripe that they fall out of the pods. *pp.*

Shud. 'That *shud* barley ud make a nation good crap, uf thay'd let it stond.'

Sherrog (shear-hog), *n.* a two-year-old sheep.

Shil-bwurd (shield-board), *n.* a board on the right hand side of a plough, which throws off the mould in even ridges.

Shindy, *n.* a scolding; a quarrel; a row.

Shirt-craw, *n.* the shirt front. 'As I was a comin' to work this marnin', I fund a young Black-stare as ud tumbled out uv 'is nist. He was all wet un amwust star'd to dyuth; but I picked 'im up, un put 'im in me *shirt-craw*, und when 'e got a bit warm, 'e come round agyun, so I took 'im back, un put 'im in 'is nist.'

Shog off, *v.* go away. 'Will you shog off now?' and 'shall we shog?' (*Shaksp., Hen. V. II., 1 and 4.*)

Shog-trot, *n.* a steady ambling trot.

Shookey, *n.* a tea-kettle.

Shrove-Tuesday is often called 'Saft-Choosdy,' and persons who happen to have been born on that day are sometimes twitted with the fact and called *Saft* or foolish in consequence. 'What's the use o' takin' eny notice o' what 'e sez? 'E was barn a *Saft-Choosdy*, un thay put batter in 'is yud instid o' brains.'

Shuck, *v.* to shake. A local wit speaks of election-time as 'ond-shuckin' time.'

Shucked, *v.* shook.

Shucks, *n.* husks. 'Don't thraow them warnut *shucks* away, thay'll do to make some ketchup.'

Shull-out (shell-out), *v.* pay down your money.

Shut, *v.* to join. To *shut* a hoop, to join by welding; to *shut* a rope, to splice the broken ends.

Shut-his-knife, *v.* died. 'I ketched a young cuckoo last spring an' I kep' 'im t'll about October, but 'e *shut 'is knife* then.'

Shut-off, *v.* to leave off working.

Shut on, *v.* rid of. 'It took sich a lot to keep that dog o' mine, that I was glad to get shut on 'im.'

Shut-out, *v.* set out; started.

Sich-as-it-is (such-as-it-is) implies, when placing anything at the disposal of a neighbour, who might at the time be requiring it, 'It is the best I have, if it were better you would be equally welcome to it.' Sometimes however, the recipient will make the same observation, humorously implying that the proffered article is not of much value. (*Benjamin, the blacksmith.*) 'Good marnin', Master Phillips, I be agwain tū Elmley.' (*Master Phillips, an Elmley man.*) 'Bist? Then I'll 'ave thee company, *sich-as-it-is*.'

Sidda (sidder) *adj.* tender; applied to peas that boil well; ripe; unsafe, shaky; applied to scaffolding, &c., when in an unsafe condition.

Side-strakes, *n.* the side beams of a saw-pit.

Sid-lup, or **Sid-lop**, *n.* a box in which seed is carried by the sower in the field. (Seed-lepe, or seed-lip.)

Sight, *n.* a great quantity. 'We've 'ad a *sight* a rain this sason.'

Sill-green, *n.* the house-leeek. (Sengreen in *Nares*.)

Silver-pin, *n.* the dragon-fly; also called the **horse-stinger**.

Silver-spoon-in-his-mouth. To be born with a silver spoon in the mouth, signifies to be born an heir to an inheritance; to have expectations of a fortune.

Singles, *n.* the shingles.

Sithe, *v.* to sigh.

Skeel, *n.* a tub or trough. **Butter-skeel**, a tub for washing butter. **Bread** or **dough skeel**, a tub or trough in which bread is made.

Skew-bald, *adj.* piebald.

'You shall find
Og, the great commissary, and which is worse
Th' apparatour upon his *skew-bal'd* horse.'

—*Cleveland*, 1651.

Skim, *n.* an agricultural implement, the use of which is to cut or skin off the surface of the ground when covered with stubble, &c.

Skimmer-lad, *n.* a small pudding boiled on a skimmer.

Skimmington, *n.* a rough play got up for the annoyance of unpopular individuals. It usually consists of a procession, in which effigies of the objectionable persons are carried through the village accompanied by beating of tin kettles and other discordant noises. Under particular circumstances, certain articles of wearing apparel are carried on sticks, after the manner of flags or banners. The performance concludes with the burning of the effigies.* Samuel Butler (a native of Strensham, four miles from Pershore) gives a description of such a performance, in his 'Hudibras.'

Skip, *n.* a broad, shallow basket.

Skurruck, *n.* the smallest fraction. 'I say, Bill, 'ast got a mossil o' baccia to give away?' 'No, lad, I ain't got a *skurruck*; I'd a gan thū a bit in a minute else.'

Slaith, *n.* action; form; applied to manner of doing work. 'E a got a good *slaith* at 'is work,' signifies '*He is a good workman, doing his work well and quickly.*' (? Corruption of 'sleight.')

Slawns, *n.* sloes; the fruit of the black-thorn. (S in *slawns* is of course redundant, *slawn* being plural.)

Slender, *adj.* tall and thin. 'Two or three on 'em was a squobblin' anant the 'lotment gyardins; when out jumps Slenderman Collins from behind a kidney-byun stick, un soon put 'em to rights abit.' (Collins's nickname makes the point of the joke obvious.)

Slether, *v.* to slide.

Slice, *n.* a stirring stick.

Slinget, *n.* a narrow strip of ground. **Sling**, *n.* a narrow road.

Slipping, *n.* a slip or cutting off a plant.

Sliver, *n.* a slice of bread, cheese, or meat, &c.

Sloat, *n.* a thin bar of wood connecting two or more thicker bars, as the *sloats* of a harrow, or of a cart or wagon bed.

Slobber, *v.* to slop water; to drivel.

Slommuck, *v.* to shuffle along in an idle, ungainly manner.

Slop, *n.* a short linen jacket.

* A *Skimmington* performance took place at Little Comberton, as recently as the beginning of the present year (1893).

Slowness of Movement or of Locomotion, is sometimes referred to in terms more pointed than elegant. 'Look at 'im, 'e creeps along as ef dyud lice wus a drappin' off 'im.' 'I wonder where Charley is; 'ang'd ef 'e yunt all-us late; uv eny on yŷ sin im?' 'O oy, 'e wus a racin' the snails round the gyardin when I come by this marnin'.'

Slow-swift, *n.* a dawdler; one who is slow at work.

Sludge, *n.* liquid mud.

Small-clothes, *n.* a prudish name for breeches.

Smartish, *adj.* fairly well. A smartish bit = a good quantity.

Smock or **Smock-frock**, *n.* a garment of 'Russia-duck,' which used to be worn by farm labourers. It reached to the knees, and, as a rule, was closed all round with only an opening through which to pass the head. The 'slop,' has now almost entirely taken its place in this district.

Smock-faced, *adj.* modest looking.

Smudge, *v.* to kiss.

Smuff, *v.* to steal away marbles with which boys are playing.

Smuffter, *n.* one who steals marbles as above.

Snag, *n.* a root or other projection under water.

Snaowp, *n.* a thump.

Snarl, all-uv-a-snarl, chilly; uncomfortably cold.

Sned, *n.* the bent stick to which a scythe is attached, or 'hung.'

Snuffle, *v.* to speak with a nasal tone, or through the nose.

Snuffle for a duck, *n.* an imaginary instrument which a mechanic will say he is making when he does not wish to inform a too inquisitive inquirer what he really is occupied at.

Sowler, *n.* a blow on the head with the fist.

Snuggle, *v.* to lie close, as a baby to its mother.

Soard, *n.* (sward) rind of bacon.

Sockage or **Sock** (soakage) *n.* liquid manure.

Sock-cart, *n.* a cart for carrying liquid manure.

Solid, *adj.* serious; solemn. To 'look solid' is to refrain from smiling when telling or enacting a joke.

Soople-tree, *n.* a piece of wood by which the traces of a horse are connected with a plough or other implement.

So-say, for the *so-say* = for the name or sound of a thing, or, as a matter of form.

Sour ground, *n.* unfertile or ill-drained ground.

Souse, *n.* the ears, snout, of a pig, pickled. ‘Brawn, pudding and *souse*’ (*Tusser*).

Sow-thistle, *n.* a broad-leaved thistle.

Spade-crutch, *n.* the small cross piece of wood to form the handle at the top of the spade-tree.

Spade-tree, *n.* the wooden shaft of a spade.

Spaul, *n.* a splinter.

Spiggit-and-Fossit, *n.* a wooden tap. The *fossit* is the part inserted into the cask; the *spiggit* is the plug.

Spike-top, *n.* a peg-top.

Spirtle, *v.* to sprinkle or bespatter with mud, &c.

Spit, *n.* the quantity dug up with one insertion of a spade.

Splinter-bar, *n.* the bar of a double-shafted waggon to which the shafts are attached.

Plotched, *adj.* having pimples on the skin.

Spfutter (1) *n.* a fuss. (2) *v.* To make a fuss about a trifle.

Spoon-fittle, *n.* food eaten with a spoon; as soup, bread and milk, &c.

Spot, *v.* to drop; to begin to rain. ‘Mother, sh’ll I get them there things in off the line? it *spots* o’ rain.’ *n.* A drop; ‘a *spot* o’ drink.’

Spreader, *n.* the stick or bar used to separate or spread out the traces worn by cart-horses.

Spud, *n.* a weeding hoe, or paddle.

Spuds, *n.* potatoes.

Squale (squeal), **Squawk** or **Squawl**, *v.* to scream.

Squib, *n.* a syringe. *v.* to syringe, or to squirt.

Squilt, *n.* a pimple or small eruption of the skin.

Squitch, *n.* (1) a twig. (2) Couch grass. (A squitch in salt = a rod in pickle.)

Squob, *n.* an unfledged young bird.

Squob, *v.* to mash up. ‘Instid o’ sellin’ my curran’s I *squobs* um up un’ makes mñ a drap o’ wind (vine) ööth um.’

Staddle, *n.* the stand or platform on which a rick is built.

Stale, *n.* the handle of a broom, pitch-fork, rake, hoe, &c.

Standy, *adj.* an obstinate or unruly child.

Stank, *v.* to dam up a stream.

Star’d (starved) *adj.* cold. ‘Well, I thinks I sh’ll get in un’ si by the fire; I a’ stood out ’ere t’ll I be amwust star’d.’

Starky, *adj.* dry and hard (the opposite of sapy). 'We shaunt a no rain, this piece o' thunk oodn't be so *starky* un 'ard else.'

Starven, *adj.* unable to bear cold. 'What a *starven* thing thū bist; if I wuz a thee I'd sit a top o' the fire.'

Stick-and-a-rag, *n.* an umbrella.

Sticks-in-'is-gizzud = remains in his thoughts (said of something which has given offence).

Stive up, *v.* to confine closely.

Stock, *v.* to peck as a bird. 'That maggit cun *stock* oncommon 'ard.'

Stock-axe, *n.* a tool resembling a pick-axe, but having flat ends for cutting, one end being in a line and the other at right angles with the helve or handle.

Stock-eekle, *n.* the Wood-pecker.

Stodger, *n.* a thick one, or a fat one.

Stodgy, *adj.* thick, or fat.

Stomach-ful, *adi.* stubborn; obstinate.

Stoop, *n.* a piece of wood fixed as a spur to a post for support.
v. To tilt a cask.

Store-pig, *n.* a young pig which is intended for pork or bacon.

Storm, *n.* a shower.

Strap-ail (strap-oil), *n.* a mythical commodity, supposed to be retailed by a shoemaker, saddler, or leather dealer; its purchase being usually entrusted to some mischievous lad (probably on the first of April), who (if caught), receives, instead of oil, a few strokes from the tradesman's strap.

Stretcher, *n.* an assertion, or a story expanded beyond the limits of actual veracity. The following little story will serve as an example:—(*Elderly individual, suspected somewhat of 'drawing the long bow,' to youth with fishing tackle, on his way to the Avon.*) 'I waund thee bist agwain a fishin'?' (*Youth.*) 'Yus, Josey, I be agwain to pwint at 'em a bit; you be used to goo sometimes didn't yū?' (*Josey.*) 'Oy bwoy, I a 'ad some very good sport too, at times. I cun remember a gooin' down to Bricklund Bank once, un I thinks Tasker Payne went along. (Doost remember oawd Tasker? Thay used tū call 'im Bo Naish [Beau Nash] 'cos 'a weared a white 'at.) Well we'd bin down afore, un baited a 'ole, un we started in the marnin' in smartish time ('cos thū knaowst it yunt a much use a gwainin uf yū don't get theare middlin' yarley); un we rather expected we sh'd a 'ad goodish luck,

but daas it, beyand two ar three nibbles we done nothin' at all for the fust hour. 'Owever, about five o'clock, summut took my float under as ef a auf hundud 'ad bin on the ind o' me line. So I picks up me rod un pulls, un the fish 'e pulls, und be 'anged ef it wusn't lucky fur me as I 'ad a good long line, 'relse, begad, e'd a pull'd mū into the river. Well, I let 'im 'ave a good run, so's to tire 'im a bit, thū knaowst; then I yuzzies 'im up like a bit; but lars, bless thū, I could find as 'ow I'd got summut on that there line bigger ner ever I'd ketched afore. So I sez to Tasker, sez I, "We sh'll 'ave a job to get this'n out look thū; just lay aowt o' the line un 'elp us to stiddy 'im oot?" Well, doost think Tasker un me cud get 'im out? No, no moore ner as ef it 'ad bin Oawd Ingleund 'ooked on to the line. A bit further along the bank thaough, was some Pawsha chaps, Mark Russell, oawd Red-nob Chucketts, un one er two moore. Thee rememberst Red-nob, doosn't? Ah! thee shood'st a sin 'im, lad, when Lard Coventry come uv age, when the Broad Street at Pawsha wus all full o' tables, un folks a sittin down to dinner at 'em. Plum puddin's brought up in waggin loads, bless thū, as true as I stonds 'ere. Lars, what a day it was! —Poor aowd Red-nob! I thinks I cun see 'im now, 'a walkin' arm un arm along o' the young junneral, as ef 'a wus 'is akles ever so (a good sart wus the young junneral); down Pawsha Street in front o' Lard Coventry's carriage, un keepin' the tune along o' the musicianers ooth a 'ond-bell.' (*Youth.*) 'But what about the fish, Josey?' (*Josey.*) 'O! we all on us managed to get 'im out, un 'e wus a wopper, un no mistake! Well, there; he wus a dyull too big to carry; so we cut a piece out o' the middle on 'im, enough fur a good dinner apiece all round, un left the rest on 'im on the bank. I never sin sich a fish afore nar sense: they called 'im a "parpus," er a "grumpus," er summut o' that.' (*Youth.*) 'Aw! Aw! Aw! Well done, Josey, that *is* a *stretcher*! Perhaps I sh'll find 'is bwuns down ut Bricklund Bank. Aw! Aw! Aw!' (*Josey.*) 'That thee ootn't, fur Master Bomfud 'ad 'im took away in a cyart, un burned among a lot o' rubbidge. Thay sowed the aishes on a fild o' mangles, un Master Bomfud said to me, "Joseph" 'e sez, "that wus the best crap o' mangles that fild ever perduced (only they tasted rather fishy);" them wus 'is very words. But it's a gettin' late, lad; hadn't better be a gwainin? Mind un nat tumble into the wāter.'

Strickliss, *n.* a straight smooth stick with which surplus corn is struck off from the top of the bushel.

Stuck, *n.* (1) the handle of a cup or mug; (2) sheaves of wheat propped against each other in the harvest field.

Stuck-his-spoon-in-the-wall, *v.* died. Parallel to 'kicked-the-bucket,' or 'shut-his-knife.'

Stunner, *n.* an extra good one.

Sucked-in, *v.* cheated.

Summer, *n.* a stout beam of timber on which brickwork rests.

Summut = something (somewhat). 'Summut in 'is yud besides nits un lice,' said of a man who is ingenious, or more than ordinarily clever.'

Sup (1) *n.* a drop. 'Öötn't 'ave a *sup* o' cider, Tom?' (2) *v.* To sip. (3) To supply with supper. 'Jim went out last night to *sup* the 'osses.'

Swag, *v.* (of a line, a beam, or a bar) to bend downwards with its own weight; to sway; to swing.

Swale, *v.* to burn off the hair of a pig when killed for bacon. Porkers are scalded.

Swanky, *n.* very poor beer or cider.

Swarm, *v.* to gather round in a cluster. 'The pawson send (sent) me down to the school ooth a basket o' opples, an' w'en the young uns sin as I'd got summut far um, thay come *swarmin'* round mü like a passil (parcel) o' bees.'

Sweet-wort, *n.* the liquor in which malt has been infused, previous to the addition of the hops.

Swelth, *n.* swelling.

Swig, *n.* a drink; a draught. 'Ave a *swig* at my bwuttle uf thū bist adry.'

Swill, *v.* to flood with water.

Swingle-tree, *n.* same as soople-tree.

Swipes, *n.* sour beer or cider.

Swite, *n.* a blow with a stick; also a clumsy slice of bread, cheese, &c.

Swop, *v.* to exchange.

Sword, *n.* a bar of wood fixed to the shaft of a cart, and by means of which the 'bed' is prevented from tilting up too far when a load is being shot out.

Swyme, *v.* to feel giddy. 'I shūd be afeard to goo up to the top o' that there ladther, my yud üd *swyme*.'

Tabber, *v.* to make a drumming noise; to tap with a stick or with the fingers. 'Ef thee shuds't want me, come un *tabber* my winder, look thū.'

Tabor-and-pipe, *n.* a rude musical instrument, or pair of instruments, consisting of a tabor, or tambourine, and a small pipe. The tabor was suspended from the left arm and beaten (taborered) with a small stick held in the right hand; the pipe held to the mouth and fingered with the left hand.

Tack, *n.* (1) Anything of little or no value; of inferior quality. (2) A collection of tools; a razor-grinder's machine is his *tack*; a smith's box of tools for shoeing horses is his 'shoeing *tack*,' &c., &c. (3) Foolish talk. (4) Hired pasture for cattle.

Tad, *n.* a disease to which rabbits are liable, caused by eating wet food. (The Tod.)

Tag, *n.* a game played by children; *v.* to touch (in the game of *Tag*). *n.* The metal end of a stay or boot lace.

Tail, *n.* inferior wheat.

Tail-board, *n.* the board with which the back of a cart or waggon is closed.

Tail-ind, *n.* (tail-end) the residue, after all the best portion has been taken away.

Talks, *v.* says. 'Is your ooman a gwain tũ Asum to-day, Jums' (James)? (*James*.) 'Well'er talks a sholl, Betty; uf it keeps dry over yud 'owever.'

Tallit, *n.* a hayloft.

Tan, *v.* to beat, to chastise. 'Now, Thomas, let them there opples alone; I sh'll *tan* your 'ide else.'

Tang, *v.* to call bees (when swarming) by making a noise, usually with a fire shovel or warming pan and a door key. It is said that if bees fly away, whoever follows and *tangs* them can claim them wherever they may settle. *n.* The end of a scythe by which it is fixed to the 'sned' or handle.

Tant, *v.* to tempt, or to instigate. 'Why did you run away from school, Johnny?' (*Johnny*.) 'Cos Billy Taylor wanted to run away, un *tanted* me to goo ooth 'im.'

Tantony's fire, *n.* St. Anthony's fire. Erysipelas.

Tantrums, *n.* passionate actions; signs of rage and ill temper; frenzy.

Tap-wad, *n.* a kind of basket fixed inside the mash-tub to prevent the escape of the 'grains' when the wort is drawn off through the 'fossit.'

Tar, *v.* to tease.

Tasker, *n.* a man employed regularly in threshing corn with a flail.

Tater-ball, *n.* the fruit of the potato, which is round like a ball and contains the seeds.

Tater-bury, *n.* a heap of potatoes partially buried and entirely covered with earth, for protection from the frost.

Tater-pin, *n.* an instrument for making holes in the ground in which to plant potatoes.

Taw, *n.* the marble which is used by a boy to 'shoot' or 'bowl' with.

Tea-kettle-broth, *n.* bread and hot water, to which is added a little butter, herbs, and salt. (Pronounced 'Tae-kettle-broth.')

Tear along, *v.* to walk, or proceed at a rapid pace.

Teart, *adj.* sharp; painful. 'That cider o' yourn's a bit *teart*, master; it's nation good else.' 'The wind's *teart* this marnin', an' no mistake.' I run a shuppick into my füt; 'twas mighty *teart*.'

Ted, *v.* to spread hay.

Teeny, or **Tiny**, *adj.* small. Employed to emphasise small or little, as 'a little *teeny* apple,' 'a *tiny* little babby,' &c., &c.

Teg, *n.* a sheep of a year old.

Tempest, *n.* a thunderstorm. 'My! don't it look black? we sh'll 'ave a *tempest* afore night surelie!'

Terrify, *v.* to torment. 'E caunt get a wink o' sleep uv a night; 'is cough *terrifies* 'im so.'

Thatten, *adj.* that one.

Thave (**theave**) *n.* a yearling ewe.

Thick-headed, *adj.* stupid. (*Young fellow, fitting on himself a neighbour's hat.*) 'There yunt much odds in our two yuds, is a Thomas?' (*Thomas.*) 'No lad, only mine's a long un, un thine's a *thick* un.'

Thick, *adj.* on very friendly terms. Plentiful. *Thick on the ground* = crowded.

Thief-in-the-candle, *n.* a part of the wick protruding from the main portion, and causing the candle to burn unevenly.

Thissen, *adj.* this one.

Thrave, *n.* a quantity of straw, consisting of twenty-four 'boltings.'

Threshel, *n.* a flail.

Thribble, *adj.* three-fold; treble.

Thripples, *n.* movable wreathes, attached to a cart or waggon.
See *Wrathes*.

Throck, *n.* the lower part of a (wooden) plough. On the end of the *throck* the ploughshare is fixed.

Throw-back, *v.* to give discount ; *n.* the discount given.

Thrum, *adj.* See *Frum*.

Thumb-piece, *n.* a piece of bread with cheese or meat, held between the thumb and finger.

Thunk, *n.* a thong ; the leather of which whips are made.

Tice, *v.* to entice. 'I wish I 'ad never set eyes on that there Preedy. 'E-a *ticed* ower Jim away from 'is place ooth 'is tales about saowdierin !' (soldiering)!

'**Tick-tack, never change back, touch cold iron,**' is the binding sentence upon the completion of an exchange or a swop by boys ; at the same time touching a piece of cold iron with the finger.

Tiddle, *v.a.* to tend carefully. 'The pawson gan mŭ a cuttin' o' that geranum, un' I *tiddled* 'im all the winter ; so I a got mŭ a tidy tree now, look.' Proverb, 'You may *tiddle* a monkey 'till 'e befouls your trenchud.'

Tiddling, *n.* a lamb or other animal brought up by hand.

Tiddy, *adj.* babyish.

Tiddy-obbin's nist, *n.* 'What bist thee a loffin' at ? I sh'd think thee 'adst fund a *tiddy-obbin's nist* un wus a loffin' at the young uns.' Or, 'What bist a *tiddy-obby-in*' at, I sh'd like to knaow ?' (*Tiddy-obbin* is probably derived from *Little Robin* in the language frequently used in talking to babies.)

Tiddy-obby-in', *v.* laughing.

Tidy, *adj.* well in health ; of good quality ; a quantity, &c. 'E a got a *tidy* way tŭ walk afore a gets wum.' 'Ow be you to-day ?' 'Pretty *tidy*.' 'The 'oss looks pretty *tidy*.'

Tidli-wink, *n.* a small public house, licensed only for the sale of beer, cider and tobacco.

Tiller (of a pit saw), *n.* the handle by which the top sawyer guides the saw.

Tilt, *n.* a canvas roof or cover to a cart or waggon.

Tind, *v.* to kindle. 'I tried to *tind* my pipe, but the wind blaowed so I couldn't manage it.'

Tine, *n.* See *Tyne*.

Tipty-toe, *prep.* on tip-toe.

Tissick, *v.* to cough. 'Grannie, 'er keeps *tissickin'* all the while.'

Tippit, *n.* the fat off a pig's chitterlings (also called the 'inudgin').

Titter, or **Titter-a-totter**, *n.* a see-saw ; *v.* to laugh slightly.

Tom-and-Jerry, *n.* a beer-house.

Tom-fool, *n.* the fool (artificial or otherwise) who accompanies the morris-dancers.

Tom-hodge, *n.* a pig's stomach. (Also called the 'night-cap.')

Tom-tit, *n.* the blue-tit.

Tommy, *n.* food.

Tommy-bag, *n.* the bag in which labourers carry their food. Also called a 'fittle-bag.'

Tong-pole, *n.* the beam by which the fore and hind wheels of a waggon are connected.

Too-iron (tue-iron), *n.* the short iron tube at the back of a blacksmith's forge, into which the nozzle of the bellows is inserted.

Topping-and-Tailing, *v.* trimming turnips, gooseberries, &c.

Tosty-ball, *n.* a cowslip ball.

Tot, *n.* a small mug.

Tottery, *adj.* infirm. 'I've 'ad the rheumatic very bad this three wiks, an' I be that tottery I caunt 'ardly scrawl.'

Touch. To have a *touch* at anything is to enter upon any particular work or job, in such a way as to give it a short trial.

'**Touch him with a short stick.**' A jocular expression used when speaking in company of a person who is present, but whose name it is not intended to mention ; thus, 'I heerd uv a mon as went to bed one night, nat long agoo, un forgot to take 'is shoes off ; I wunt say who it was, but I could *touch 'im ooth a shart stick.*'

Tow-chain, *v.* a strong chain used for hoisting timber, &c.

Towsle, *v.* to shake or tumble anything about as haymakers do the hay, or as children playing amongst hay or straw.

Trace-horse, *n.* a horse which draws in traces, as distinguished from one in the shafts.

Traipse, *v.* to leave muddy or wet footprints on the floor. 'Now you young uns, I wunt 'ave yū a *traipsin'* in an' out o' this 'ere kitchin look ; I may just as well 'a done nothin' as to a claned the flur else.'

Tram, *n.* a strong square frame with four legs on which a wheelwright makes wheels; also a stand for casks.

Trammel, *n.* a kind of fishing net.

Transum, *n.* a piece of timber placed across the end of a saw-pit (resting on the 'side strakes') to support the end of the log to be sawn up.

Trenchud (trenchard), *n.* a trencher; a wooden platter.

Triggle, *n.* trigger (of a gun).

Trimmer, *n.* a kind of fishing line attached to a large float, which turns over when a fish is hooked.

Tringle, *v.* to trundle (a mop, &c.).

Troves, *n.* plural of trough.

Trunkey, *n.* a small fat pig.

Trusten to, *v.* to trust to or in.

Tumbrel, *n.* a cart without springs, constructed so as to be easily removed from its wheels. 'Tumbrell, cart, waggon and wain' (*Tusser*).

Tump, *n.* a mound or hillock; a small hay-rick.

Tun-dish, *n.* a funnel for filling bottles.

Tun-pail, *n.* a large pail, with a tube at bottom by means of which casks are filled.

Tup, *n.* a ram.

Turmits, *n.* turnips.

Tush, *n.* (1) the broad part of a plough-share, (2) a tusk; *v.* to draw a heavy weight, as of timber, &c.

Tushes, *n.* tusks.

Tushing-wheels, *n.* a pair of wheels between which heavy trunks of trees, &c., are slung for removal.

Tussuck, *n.* a bunch or cluster of rank grass.

Tutty, *adj.* touchy, short-tempered.

Twang, *n.* accent; manner of speaking; dialect. 'Who be them two chaps, John?' 'Oh, they be two young Jarmans (Germans) as be a stoppin' at ower vicar's: they be come over 'ere just to get aowt (hold) uv ower *twang*.'

Two-faced, *adj.* deceitful. 'Here's wishing the mon may never get fat, as carries two faces under one hat.'

Two-folks, *n.* at variance. 'Now, Jack, yū lazy rascal, uf thee doosn't get on o' thy work, thee un I sh'll be *two-folks*.'

Two-shear-sheep, *n.* a sheep old enough to be shorn a second time.

Tye, *n.* a chain with which horses are fastened by the fore-foot to one spot to feed.

Tye-beetle, *n.* a large wooden mallet used to drive the 'tye-pin' into the ground.

Tyne, *n.* the prong of a fork; the spike or prong of a harrow.

Unbeknowns-to-him = without his knowledge; surreptitiously.

Un-gain, *adj.* ungainly, clumsy, awkward, inconvenient. See *Gain*.

Unkid, *adj.* lonely. 'Thay lives right up at the top o' the common, where there be no more housen enny wer' near. It's a *unkid* sart of a place: but nat a bad 'ouse else.'

Unkyind, *adj.* unfavourable, unhealthy. 'The byuns don't graow a bit, they seems so *unkyind*.'

Up-an-ind, *p.* in a sitting posture; generally employed when speaking of sitting up in bed. 'I heerd summut a makin a craking naise last night, atter we'd gwun to bed, and so I sat *up-an-ind* and listened, fur I thought sumbwuddy 'ad got in, but I fund as it wus only the cat a sharpin' 'er claes on the flur.'

Up-set, *v.* to thicken a bar of iron by heating the centre and beating up the ends (a blacksmith's term).

Urchin, *n.* a hedgehog.

Uyver, *adj.* upper.

Uyvermust, *adj.* uppermost.

Void, *adj.* empty. An empty house is said to be *void*.

Wad, *n.* a small hay-cock.

Wake, *n.* an annual village festival, usually occurring on the anniversary of the dedication of the parish church.

Walk-into, *v.* to attack pugnaciously and successfully. (This simile is used only when the attack is made either in self-defence, or after receiving provocation.)

Wallet, *n.* a bag in which migratory labourers carry their provisions, &c.

Wally, or **Wolly**, *n.* rows into which hay is raked.

Wane, *n.* (*adj.* waney) the natural unevenness of the edges of boards.

Warm, *v.* to beat. 'Let me ketch thū a doin' that agyun look, an' I'll *warm* thū!' 'I'll *warm* thee yud,' or, 'I'll *warm* thee nut,' = 'I'll punch your head.'

Warmship, *n.* warmth. 'There's a dyul a *warmship* in my aowd shawl.'

Warnuts, *n.* walnuts.

Warty-wells, *n.* the horny protuberances on the inner sides of horses' legs.

Washer, *n.* thin round plate of iron placed on a bolt underneath the nut, to prevent the latter from cutting against the substance through which the bolt is passed.

Washings, *n.* inferior cider, made by grinding up a second time (mixed with water), the 'husk' or 'cake' of apples from which the juice has already been extracted.

Watchered, *adj.* wet; having wet feet (? corruption of *wetshod*).

Wattle-and-dab, *n.* lath and plaster, or wicker-work and plaster.

Wattles, *n.* the strips of wood used to keep thatch in its place.

Watty, or **Watty-onded**, *adj.* left-handed.

Wave-wind, *n.* the wild convolvulus.

Wax-ind (wax-end), *n.* the waxed thread used by shoemakers.

Way-broad-leaf, *v.* a broad-leaved wild plant, common on the road sides.

Wazzun, or **Wazzund** *n.* the windpipe.

Well-ended, *adj.* said of crops safely carried and not injured by the weather.

Well-pole, *n.* a pole having at the end a hook, with which the bucket is lowered into the well for the purpose of bringing up water.

Welly, *adv.* nearly.

Wench, *n.* a girl.

Wenching, *v.* courting.

Went, *v.* frequently used for 'gone.' 'I oodn't a *went* to Pawsha fair, if I'd a thought a 'avin' my pocket picked.'

Werrit, or **Worrit**, *v.* to worry; *n.* one who worries; a person of anxious temperament.

Wesh-tub, or **Wash-tub**, *v.* a tub into which broth, vegetables, sour milk, and all kinds of kitchen refuse are emptied; and so become pig's wesh (or wash), *i.e.*, food for the pigs. 'I byunt agwain to make a *wesh-tub* o' my belly, by drinkin' sich stuff as that.'

What d'yu call mǔ that? = What is it you have there?

'**What part o' the play be you agwain to act?**' = 'What portion of the business are you going to undertake?'

Whifle, *v.* (of the wind) to blow lightly through a crevice, or among standing corn, &c.

Whimmy, *adj.* full of whims.

Whinnuck, *v.* to cry fretfully.

White-al, *n.* a white marble.

Whosen, *pron.* whose.

Wift, *n.* a whiff (as of tobacco, &c.). 'I thinks I sh'll 'ave a *wift* a bacca.'

Will-jill, *n.* an hermaphrodite.

Will-o'-the-wisp, *n.* the ignis fatuus. Also known as *Aw-puck* (Hob-puck), *Hobbady-lantern* (Hob-and-his-lantern), *Jack-o-lantern*, *Pinkit*, &c.

Wimble-straw, *n.* a very slender straw.

Wimbling, *adj.* of slender growth, as applied to a plant or a stalk. 'Wer did I get thase ere big taters from? well, I'll tell yǔ. Ower Tom un I wus at work in the brickyard lcock, un a bwutman as 'ad come up the river from Gloucester, thraowed two or three goodish taters out o' the bwut; so we picks 'em up un peels 'em fur dinner. Well, atter we'd peeled 'em we thraows the peelin' on to a yup o' rubbidge, bricks' inds un that, un thought no moore about it. Well, in a faow wicks' time I siz a bit uv a *wimblin'* top a comin' up among the bricks' inds, un I sez to 'Tom, sez I, "Now we wunt touch that theare tater, but we'll wait un see what sart uv a one 'e is, look thǔ." So when it wus time to dig um up (there seemed to be a smartish faow at the root), we dug round um keerful like so as nat to spwile eny on um, un uf you'll believe me, thay wus the biggest taters as I ever sin. The biggest on um wus so 'eavy that ower Tom un I 'ad to carry 'im away between us on a 'ond-borrow [hand-barrow]. Now, chaps, let's 'ave another 'arn o' cider un get on.'

Winding-sheet (in the candle), *n.* a small piece of tallow, which, being slightly harder than the main portion of the candle, does not melt as rapidly, but curls downwards on one side. It is supposed to portend a death.

Winkers, *n.* blinkers; the pieces or plates of leather, attached to horses' head-gear, to prevent their seeing anything on either side.

Withy, *n.* willow.

Wollop, *v.* to beat.

Wobbling, *adj.* an uneven, unsteady motion.

Wonderment, *n.* See *önderment*.

Wrathes (wreathes), *n.* a kind of rack projecting horizontally round the top of a waggon or cart; by means of which, straw, hay, &c., can be carried in larger quantities and with greater security.

Wretch, *n.* often used as an expression of endearment or sympathy. (*Old woman to young master.*) 'An' 'ow is the missis to-day, poor *wretch*?' Of a boy going to school a considerable distance off: 'I met 'im ööth a bit o' bread in 'is bag, *poor wretch*.'

Wrist (Wrest or Rest) (of a plough), *n.* a piece of wood below the shield-board, which wrests the earth aside from the plough.

Yard-land, *n.* a system under which male paupers worked for a given time alternately, on the several farms in the parish to which they belonged.

Yat, *n.* a gate.

Yat-pwust, *n.* a gate post.

Yat-pwust-singing, *v.* each person in a company, singing a different song at the same time.

Yaux, *v.* to cough, or expectorate. 'I don't want no bacca smokers in my kitchen, *yauxin'* an' spettin' about.'

Yourn, *pron.* yours.

Yud, *n.* the head.

Yun, *v.* (of a ewe) to ean.

EXAMPLES OF LOCAL PRONUNCIATION OF ORDINARY WORDS.

A is prefixed to active verbs, as 'he's *a*-coming,' 'a-talking,' 'a-ploughing,' 'a-shearing,' &c., &c.; to some adjectives, as 'a-dry' (thirsty), 'a-cold,' 'a-ongry' (hungry), &c. It has also sometimes to do duty for 'on,' as 'a-top,' 'a-fut' (afoot), 'The world runs *a-wheels*' (*Ben Jonson*); for 'in,' as 'a-bed,' &c.

'That night he sat well sore akale,
And his wif lai warme *a-bedde*.'

The Sevyng Sages, 1513 (quoted by Halliwell).

'a-two,' for in two, 'cut it *a-two* ooth thee knife;' 'A short saw, a long saw, to cut *a-two* logs' (*Tusser*); and for 'he,' 'she,' 'it,' 'has,' &c., as 'E's a good sart of a chap, yunt *a*?' 'Er caunt do sich a job as that, like a mon, con *a*?' (*Answer*.) 'That *a* con;' comp. *Shakesp. Hen. V.* iii. 2, also ii. 3. 'This tree *a* got a good crap o' opples on 'im, aant *a*?' Some prepositions have *a* prefixed to them, as *a*-near, *a*-nigh—

'All that come *a-near* him,
He thinks are come on purpose to betray him.'

(*Beaumont & Fletcher*.)

'Don't you get *anigh* them osses, Johnny; they'll kick yū.'

Accud, *adj.* awkward. 'It's pocky *accud*,' is a common expression for 'it is very awkward.'

Accun, *n.* acorn.

Across, *prep.* across.

Adland, *n.* headland. The strip of land left at each end of a field, at right angles with the ridges, or lands. See *lands* (p. 20).

A-dreamed, *v.* 'I was *a-dreamed*' for 'I dreaime.' 'I was *adreamed* that I killed a buck' (*Lupton's Thousand Notable Things*).

Afeard, *adv.* afraid.

Afrawl, *prep.* for all; in spite of. 'Now, Billy, thee cossn't come this a-road.' (*Billy.*) 'I sh'll come *afrawl* thee.'

Aften, *adv.* often.

Agoo, *adv.* ago.

'And yett not lowng *agoo*
Was prechares one or tooe.'

Vox Populi, Vox Dei, 1547-8.

Agyun, *prep.* against; *adv.* again.

Ail, *n.* oil.

Aish, *n.* ash.

Aishes, *n.* ashes.

Akles, *n.* equals.

All-us, *adv.* always.

Allyblaster, *n.* alabaster.

A-mwust, *adv.* almost.

Ankitcher, *n.* handkerchief.

Ankley, *n.* ankle.

Archud, *n.* orchard.

Arg, or **Argal**, *v.* to argue; to dispute. 'Er argald me out, as your new shawl was blue, un it's green now, yunt it?' 'Ile arg, as I did now, for credance again' (*Heywood*, 1556; see *Nares*). Gaelic *Iargall*, a skirmish, a fight. (*Mackay*). Comp. *Shakesp.*, *Ham.*, v. 1.

Arn, *n.* horn.

Arnary, *adj.* ordinary; usually signifying 'not handsome.'

Arrand, *n.* errand.

Art to, *adv.* ought to.

Arter, or **Atter**, *prep.* after.

Asp, *n.* The Aspen Tree.

Attackted, *v.* attacked.

Atternone, *n.* afternoon.

Aurrust, *n.* harvest.

Ayfer, *n.* heifer.

Bag, *v.* beg. (*Boy, to facetious labourer.*) 'Ave you got a wife, Willum?' (*F. L.*) 'Oy bwoy, I a got two wives; one gwuz out a *baggin'*, un thū tuther stops at wum tū swurt the fittle.'

Bagger-mon, *n.* beggar-man.

Bagger-ooman, *n.* beggar-woman.

Baily, *n.* bailiff.

Banes, or **Byuns**, *n.* beans.

Biff, *n.* beef.

Blaht, *v.* bleat.

Brenth, *n.* breadth. **Brende**, to make broad; to spread about.
(*Halliwell*.)

Broccilo, *n.* broccoli.

Bruck, *n.* brook.

Bruddy, *adj.* broody.

Bust or **Busted**, *v.* burst. 'Tho bwiler o' the stem injin *busted* this marnin', so we caunt goo on o' the threshin.'

Bwile, *v.* or *n.* boil.

Bwun, *n.* bone.

Bwurd, *n.* board.

Bwut, *n.* boat.

Bwuth, *adj.* both.

Bwuttle, *n.* bottle. A small wooden cask, holding from two to four quarts (sometimes larger) in which a labourer carries his day's supply of cider. It is usually painted blue or lead colour.

Byum, *n.* beam.

Byun, *n.* bean.

Byut. *v.a.* to beat; *pp.* beaten.

Caowd, *adj.* cold.

Caowt, *n.* colt.

Card or **Kwerd**, *n.* cord.

'All up to the chimbly top,
Athout a ladther, *kwerd* or rop.'

Carn or **Kwern**, *n.* corn.

Carpse, *n.* corpse.

Cavaltry, *n.* cavalry.

Chaney, *n.* china. 'The cubbud (cupboard) fell down look, un broke all Nell's *chaney*.'

Chape or **Chup**, *adj.* cheap.

Chate or **Chut**, *v.* cheat.

Chayce, *adj.* choice.

Cheer, *n.* chair.

Childun, *n.* children.

Choke, *n.* chalk.

Churm, *n.* or *v.* churn.

Claes, *n.* claws.

Clat, *n.* clod.

Clauss, *prep.* close; *n.* a field, as 'Broad-clauss,' 'Shuppud's-clauss.'

Coom, *n.* or *v.* comb.

Coo-wut, *n.* coat.

Cosses, *v.* costs.

Cowslups, *n.* cowslips. Going 'a Cowsluppin' and 'Fire-lightin',' is going gathering cowslips and violets.

Cracks or **Crackery-ware**, *n.* crocks, crockery. (*Farmer, having finished his tea.*) 'Now, Mary, put thase 'ere cracks away.'

Craft, *n.* croft, a field; as 'Pitch-craft' (Pitch-croft), 'Mung-craft' (Mount-croft), &c.

Crap, *n.* crop. 'Ther's a good *crap* o' pears on Josey Pugh's pear-tree, yunt a?'

Crass, *adj.* cross.

'Crass-patch, draw the latch, sit at the fire and spin;
Take a sup, and drink it up, and call your neighbours in.'

Crem, *n.* cream.

Cuffer, *n.* coffer (a chest).

Cyart, *n.* cart.

Cyart-uss, *n.* cart-house.

Daow, *n.* dew.

Daunce, *v.* to dance.

Dern, *v.* to darn.

Disgest, *v.* digest.

Dizzen, *adj.* dozen. 'Do lave off chattering oot? Thy tongue runs nineteen tũ the *dizzen*.'

Dowsty, *adj.* dusty.

Drap, *n.* or *v.* drop. 'A *drap* o' cider's the best thing tũ squench yer thust.' 'Stop that naise oot? I'll *drap* it on thũ else.'

Drownd, *v.* to drown.*

* George Hawker was employed with other men in cleaning out the large fish-pond at Elmley, and by some means or other, through stooping down to do something to his feet, his hands as well as his feet got stuck in the mud,

Dyudly, *adv.* deadly (*i.e.*, very), as ‘*dyudly*-good taters,’ ‘a *dyudly*-clever mon’ (man), &c.

Dyull, *v.* to deal; *n.* a quantity.

Eckth, *n.* height.

Erriwig, *n.* earwig.

Errun, *pron.* ever a one.

Ex, *v.* ask. (The original Saxon form was *Ax*, so used by Chaucer, Bale, Heywood, and others.—*Nares*.)

Exter, *adj.* extra.

Fallies, *n.* felloes of a wheel.

Faow, *adj.* few.

Farry, *v.* to farrow, or *n.* a litter (of pigs only).

Fatches, *n.* vetches.

Fater, *n.* or *v.* feature. ‘That little un *faters* ’is father, don’t a now?’

Fawt, *n.* fault.

‘And of all this sequell
The *fawt* I can not tell.’—*Vox Populi*.

When the cider or ale cup is at a standstill at a festivity, one of the party will say to the one whose turn it is to drink, ‘Now then, it’s your *fawt*.’

Fearn, *n.* fern.

Fild, *n.* field.

Fill-beard, *n.* filbert.

Filler, *n.* thiller; the shaft horse. ‘Thou hast got more hair on thy chin than Dobbin, my *phill* horse, has on his tail’ (*Shakesp.*, *Mer. Ven.*, ii. 2).

Fire-lights, *n.* violets.

Fit, *n.* feet.

and he was quickly in a dangerous position; for although the water had been drawn off, there was still sufficient left to cover him in a very little time, he being but a short man, in a stooping posture, and gradually sinking deeper and deeper. Fortunately, one of his butties (I think it was George Taylor), was a tall powerful man, and he, seeing George’s awkward predicament, stalked up to him and seizing him by his waistband, lifted him bodily out of the mud. His companions gathered round him, exclaiming, ‘Why, Jarge, you’d soon a bin *drowned*.’ ‘*Drowned* be d—d,’ replied George, ‘I’d a drunk that drap fust.’

- **Fittle**, *n.* victuals. (*Vittle* in *Tusser*.)
- Flaes**, *n.* fleas. 'Well, I thinks I sh'll take the *flaes* their fittle' (a whimsical mode of expressing the intention to go to bed).
- Flannin**, *n.* flannel.
- Fleshy**, *adj.* fledged.
- Flur**, *n.* floor.
- Fother**, *n.* fodder.
- Fowt**, *v.* fought. 'Ower dog un Dame Wright's cat *fowt* istady, un didn't 'er scrat 'im ooth 'er claes?'
- Fund**, *v.* found.
- Furder**, *adj.* further. *Furder* a-fild (a-field) = Farther off. 'This brethren wendeth *afeld*' (*MS. Bodl.* 652, *f.* 2).
- Furlun**, *n.* furlong.
- Fust**, *adj.* first.
- Fut**, *v.* foot.

- Gaish**, *n.* a gash.
- Gallund**, *n.* gallon.
- Goold**, *n.* gold.
- Grace**, *n.* grease.
- Grace-arn**, *n.* grease-horn.
- Gwun**, *v.* gone.
- Gyum**, *n.* game.

- Hawves**, *n.* haws.
- Him**, or 'im is commonly used for 'it.'
- His-self**, *pron.* himself.
- Hongry**, *adj.* hungry. 'A 'ongry dog 'll yut dirty puddin'.'—*Proverb.*

- Ind**, *n.* end.
- Iss**, *adv.* yes.
- Istady**, *adv.* yesterday.
- It**, *conj.* yet.

- Jice**, *n.* joist.
- Jine**, *v.* join.

Kay, *n.* key. See also *Kyoy*.

Keard, *n.* card.

Kep, *v.* kept.

Ketch, *v.* catch.

Kiver, *v.* cover.

Kwert, *n.* court, or *v.* to court.

Kwertin', *v.* courting. 'Where's Samiwell, Thomas?' (*Thomas*).
'O, 'e's gwn a-kwertin', I ricken, fur 'e put on 'is tuther
'at un coowut, un tiddivated his-self up a bit.'

Kyoy, *n.* key; or (in music) tune. (*Critic to amateur musicians*).
'Yü byunt in *kyoy*, be yü?'

Ladge, *v.* lodge.

Ladther, *n.* ladder.

Laird, *n.* lard.

Laish, *n.* lash.

Laiter, *v.* loiter.

Lane, or **Lee-yun**, *adj.* lean, or *v.* to lean.*

Layer, *n.* lawyer.

Lazin, or **Lee-uz-in**, *v.* leasing (gleaning).

Lennet, *n.* linnet.

Lines, *n.* loins. 'I a got sich a pain across my *lines* I caunt
'ardly stond up.'

Loff, *v.* laugh. To 'loff o' the tother side o' the mouth' means
'to cry.'

Manin', or **Myunin'**, *n.* meaning.

Marter-bwurd, *n.* mortar-board.

Mishtif, *n.* mischief.

Mizsher, *v.* or *n.* measure.

Mossy, *n.* mercy. 'Lars a' *mossy*! who'd a thought o' seein
you 'ere.'

* Persons bearing the surname of 'Lane' are not unfrequently nick-named 'Raowy' as a prefix, thus becoming 'Raowy Lane,' which, in the local dialect, signifies 'rowy lean,' referring to bacon so called when it has layers of lean and fat alternating (the 'streaky' bacon of Londoners). In connection with this subject, the writer is reminded of a villager who was sometimes twitted with feeding and starving his pig on alternate days for the purpose of producing bacon having this desirable quality.

Mossil, *n.* morsel. A person chancing to make a call upon a neighbour at meal-time, would probably be invited to partake of his hospitality thus: 'We be a gwain to 'ave a *mossil* o' fittle look; ool yŭ come in un jine us?'

Mult, *v.* moult.

Mwire, *n.* mire, mud; *v.* to bedaub with mud.

Naise, *n.* noise.

Nat, *adv.* not.*

Natch, *n.* notch.

Nist, *n.* nest.

Ontle, *n.* handful.

Ood, *n.* wood.

Ooden, *adj.* made of wood; also, clumsy or ungainly.

Ool, *v.* will. 'I ool' = I will.

Ooth, *prep.* with.

Opiniated, *adj.* opinionated.

Opple, *n.* apple.

Oss, *n.* horse.

Paes, *n.* peas.

Pale, *n.* peel. A kind of wooden shovel with which loaves of bread are placed in, or removed from, the oven.

Paowl, *n.* pole.

Peth, *n.* pith.

Pibble, *n.* pebble.

* The following little incident will serve to illustrate the use of the word *nat*, and will also give a glimpse, as it were, of the relations existing between pastor and people at the time of its occurrence. The late rector of Little Comberton, the Rev. W. Parker—one of the kindest, gentlest, and most tender-hearted of men, for whose memory I entertain the deepest feelings of gratitude and reverence—was assisting in distributing the prizes at the Annual Flower Show (on that occasion held at Bricklehampton Hall), at which John Taylor had been one of the most successful of the exhibitors. Having to call up John so frequently to receive a prize, the rector at length said to him in a jocular manner, 'Which way are you going home, John?' (humorously implying by his inquiry, that if he did but know, he would way-lay him). John's answer was ready and pointed: '*Nat* thraough Little Cummerton, sir.'—J. S.

Pwut, *n.* pot.

Power, *v.* pour. 'My word! 'ow the rain did *power* down.'

Primmi-rose, *n.* primrose.

Pwint, *n.* point. (Fishing with a rod and line is often known as '*pwinting*.')

Pwuddle, *n.* puddle, a small pool of water.

Pwust, *n.* post (plural, *pwusses**).

Quate, *adj.* quiet. 'Be *qwate* oot?' is equivalent to 'Be still,' or 'Be quiet, will you?'

Qwine, *n.* coin.

Racket, *n.* rocket.

Rasen, *n.* reason.

Ricken, *v.* reckon. Frequently used in the same sense as 'suppose' or 'think;' thus, 'It's time to be abed, *I ricken*.' 'We sh'll 'ave some rain, don't yū ricken?'

Rop, *n.* rope.

Rot, *n.* rat.

Rowsty, *adj.* rusty.

Rubbidge, *n.* rubbish.

Ruff, *n.* roof.

Saft, *adj.* soft.

Saish, *n.* sash.

Sallit, *n.* salad.

Scollud, *n.* scholar.

Senners, *n.* sinews.

Shap, *n.* shop.

Shart, *adj.* short.

Shâves, *n.* shafts.

Shilf, *n.* shelf.

Ship, *n.* sheep.

Shoot, *n.* or *v.* suit; as 'a *shoot* o' clothes;' 'ool that *shoot* yū?' (will that suit you?).

* A very short distance from this district, but on the south side of Bredon Hill, and in Gloucestershire, the plural is *pwustes*.

Shuf, *n.* sheaf (plural *shufs*).

Shuit, *n.* suet.

Shull, *n.* shell.

Shum, *n.* shame.

Shuppick, *n.* sheaf-pike. 'Two paire of links, a forest bill, and a *sheppicke*, with some odd tooles' (*Inventory*, 1627, *Stratford-on-Avon MSS.*).

Shuppud, *n.* shepherd.

Shuth, *n.* sheath.

Sich, *adj.* such.

Sid, *n.* seed.

Sids, *n.* seeds ; growing clover.

Sildum, *adv.* seldom.

Sile, *n.* or *v.* soil.

Skirmidge, *n.* skirmish.

Sky-racket, *n.* sky-rocket.

Slep, *v.* slept.

Slick, *adj.* sleek.

Slob, *n.* slab.

Snift, *v.* to sniff.

Sneedge, *v.* to sneeze.

Sollery, *n.* celery.

Sparra-grass, *n.* asparagus.

Spended, *v.* spent. 'The seke brother *spendyd* al that daye in laudyng and presyng God.' (*The Revelation to the Monk of Evesham*, first printed about 1482.)

Sperits, *n.* spirits.

Spet, *v.* to spit.

Spettle, *n.* spittle.

Squale, *v.* to squeal or cry out like a pig.

Squench, *v.* quench.

Stem, *n.* steam.

Stivicate, *n.* certificate.

Stom, *n.* a stem ; as a cabbage-stom.

Stond, *v.* stand.

'Yet wyll I never yelde me to the,
Whyll I may *stonde* and fyght'
(*The Battle of Otterbourne*, in *Percy's Reliques*.)

Strem, *n.* stream.

Strick, *v.* to strike.

Stroddle, *v.* to straddle.

Stun, *n.* stone.

Sut, *n.* soot.

Swinge, *v.* to singe.

Swurt, sort; (1) *n.* kind or breed. 'Them be good *swurted* taters, byunt 'um, Willum?' (2) *v.* To separate one kind from another; or good from bad, &c.

Taffey, *n.* toffey.

Tae, *n.* tea.

Talents, *n.* talons.

Taters, *n.* potatoes.

The tother, *pron.* the other. 'The bred and a litil hony that was lefte the tothir tyme' (*The Monk of Evesham*).

They, for 'them,' &c. 'Them pigs don't get on much, doos um?' 'No; 'e only giz um a drap o' sour wesh; un that's a no good tũ *thay*, is it? Nat uf a wans tũ make fat uns on um 'oweever.'

'But all *they* three . . . could not be man to me.'
Shakesp., Hen. V., iii. 2.

Thrid, *n.* thread.

Throw (*ow* as in cow), *prep.* through.

Thurn, *n.* thorn.

Tith, *n.* teeth.

Tray-foil, *n.* tre-foil.

Trewel, *n.* trowel.

Unbeknowns, *adj.* unknown.

Understond, *v.* to understand. 'Sir, ye schal *vunderstonde* and know,' &c. (*The Monk of Evesham*).

Us, *pron.* we (objective). 'We've 'ad a fine summer, aint *us*?'

Valley, *n.* value.

Varges, *n.* verjuice. 'That cider's about the wust as ever I tasted; it's as sour as *varges*.'

Yarment, *n.* vermin.

Vilet or **Voilet**, *n.* or *adj.* violet. See also '*Fire-light*.'

Waund, *v.* warrant. 'That bwoy yunt strong enough tu carry that there bag o' taters.' (*Boy's father*.) 'O, I *waund* 'im.'

Wâscut or **Weskit**, *n.* waistcoat.

Wesh, *v.* to wash. 'Thenne they *weshid* his heedde breste handys and feete with colde watyr' (*The Monk of Evesham*).

Wheel-racket, *n.* wheel-rocket, or Catherine wheel.

Wick, *n.* week.

Winder, *n.* window.

Wum, *n.* home. 'I aften wishes as I wus at *wum*.'

Yander, *prep.* yonder (akyander = look yonder).

Yaow, *n.* ewe; *v.* to hew.

Yar, *n.* hair.

Yarb, *n.* herb. 'Like *yarbs* to the pwut' = in very small particles, like herbs prepared for the pot.

Yarley, *adj.* early.

Yarn, *v.* to earn.

Yarnest, *adj.* earnest; *n.* a portion of wages paid in advance, to bind the bargain upon hiring a servant.

Yourn, *pron.* yours.

Yud, *n.* head.

Yunt, *v.* (aint), is he (she, or it) not?

Yup, *n.* heap. (*Man who has to cross Bredon Hill*.) 'Well, I must get o' the tother side o' that yup o' dirt, I spose.'

Yus, *adv.* yes.

Yut, *v.* eat. (*Willum*.) 'Good marnin', John, 'ow's the ooman?' (*John*.) 'Well 'er yunt just the thing, Willum; 'er caunt yut nuthin'; un we knaows uf 'er caunt yut 'er fittle, there must be summut wrong.'

Yuth, *n.* earth; or a heath. 'Crapton *Yuth*' is 'Cropthorne Heath,' 'Bill *Yuth*' is 'William' or 'Bill Heath.'

Yuzzy, *adj.* easy. 'Ow be yũ to-day, Thomas?' (*Thomas*.) 'Well, I feels a bit better, thenky. My yud ached turrible istady, but 'e's *yuzzier* to-day, a goodish bit.' 'And sothely the more nere they al came to the ende of the place the more *yesyor* and softyr waxed their peynys' (*The Monk of Evesham*).

CUSTOMS, CHARMS, REMEDIES, SIGNS, SUPERSTITIONS, &c.

CUSTOMS, PRACTICAL JOKES, &c.

NEW YEAR'S MORNING.—It is customary on New Year's morning for boys to go from house to house, chanting,

‘I wish you a merry Christmas,
A happy New Year,
A pocket full o' money,
A cellar full o' beer;
A good fat pig to sarve yu all the year.
Bud well and bear well,
I hope you will fare well;
Every sprig and every spray,
A bushel o' opples on New Year's day.
Up the ladther and down the wall,
Two or three opples 'll sarve us all;
One for Peter, and one for Paul,
And one for God as made us all.’

Sometimes the last line is changed to

‘And one for you and I *an all*.’
[‘*An-all*,’ also.] (See *Halliwel's Dict.*)

CAROLS are sung at Christmas-tide; the practice being for boys and girls to go round nightly from St. Thomas's Day until Christmas Day, and to sing one or more carols at the door of each house.

NEIGHBOURLY GREETING.—Upon entering a neighbour's house during the progress of a meal, it is (or was) customary for the visitor to say, ‘Much good may it do you.’

BOWING ON ENTERING CHURCH.—When the author was a boy, it was the custom of many members of the congregation at Little Comberton (particularly the elder people) to turn to the east and bow, the men upon entering the church, the women upon arriving at their seats; the latter slightly bending the knee, or courtesying, before entering their pew. As there had not at that time been any revival of High Church principles, in that or any of the

neighbouring parishes, the custom alluded to might have been a lingering remanent of pre-Reformation times.

PIG'S FRY.—A very good custom is that of distributing amongst neighbours a small quantity of pig's 'fry' at pig-killing time; the compliment being of course returned when the recipients kill *their* pigs. It may perhaps be considered somewhat of a flaw in this otherwise excellent custom, when it is stated that the donors of the 'fry' do not, as a rule, give any to those neighbours who are not fortunate enough to possess a pig.* Such is the custom, and it is hoped that the reader will not for one moment infer that there exists amongst the villagers a want of kindly feeling towards their poorer neighbours; but decidedly the reverse. They are always ready and willing to help a neighbour (whether poor or well-to-do), in sickness or distress, to the best of their ability; the thought of payment for such service as they are able to render, never entering their heads.

DANCING ON THE GREEN or on the margin of the village highway, was not at all uncommon when the author was a youth. He has seen staid dames, as well as lads and lasses of the village, taking their places in the sets and footing it right heartily—and that, too, after having done a day's work on the farm,† or in their own houses. The orchestra usually consisted of a fiddle, with the addition, perhaps, of one or two flutes and occasionally also of a bass viol.

Unfortunately, the green margins of our English highways have in many districts been enclosed by the neighbouring land-owners, and dances on the green are now, like the greens themselves (no pun is intended), no longer common.

An anonymous poet has said, or sung:—

'Great is the fault in man or woman
That steals a goose from off a common,
But who can plead that man's excuse
Who steals the common from the goose?'

* When I was quite a little boy, I received, in connection with the custom here alluded to, probably my first practical lesson in the 'ways of the world.' It happened one year, that for some reason or other my father did not have a pig, and I noticed with surprise that a near neighbour, when her pig was killed, did not (as was her usual custom) give us any 'fry' Inquiring of my good mother the cause of this omission, I was told it was because we had no pig. Her answer puzzled me considerably, for I could not help thinking, most conscientiously, that for that very reason our usually kind neighbour ought not on this occasion to have overlooked us.—J. S.

† There is undoubtedly, to some constitutions, something highly exhilarating in out-door occupation. I have seen men working in the harvest field as hard as it seemed possible for men to work, who, upon the conclusion of a *bout* (see p. 5), would nevertheless indulge in a hornpipe, apparently from sheer animal enjoyment of the pleasure of being alive.—J. S.

In connection with this subject, and that of rural life generally, it may here be remarked (if a slight digression be permitted), that farmers and labourers had their grievances 350 years ago, much as they have them now. In '*Now a dayes*,' a poem written about the year 1530, the author states, amongst other grievances:—

'But now their ambitious sottlethe
Maketh one fearme of two or thre;
Ye, some tyme they bring VI. to one.'

Great complaint is also made against enclosures:—

'Commons to close and kepe
Poor for bred [to] cry and wepe.'

In '*Vox Populi Vox Dei*,' 1547-8, the laying down of arable land for grazing purposes is bitterly denounced.

'This is a mervellois mesire
For grasiarcs and regratres,
With soe many shepe-maistres
That of erabell ground make pasteres,
Are they that be these wasteres,
That will vndoe this lande?' &c. &c.

In another poem of about the same date ('*The Ruin of a Ream*'), complaint is made of absenteeism on the part of the nobility and gentry.

'Sometyme nobyll men levyd in ther contre,
And kepte grete howsouldis, pore men to socowur;
But now in the Courts they desire for to be,
With ladys to daly, this is ther pleasure;
So pore men dayley may famish for hunger,
Or they com home on monyth to remayne;
Thys ys the trowthe, as I here certeyne.'

Returning to the subject in hand:—

Mops, or hiring fairs, are held in various towns at Michaelmas-tide. Those who attend them with the intention of being hired, adopt certain badges which are well understood, and therefore save time and trouble. A carter's boy wears a length of whip-cord in his hat; a carter, some horse-hair; a groom, a small piece of sponge, &c. Female servants also used to have some plan of showing what positions they were looking for, by the way in which they wrapped their shawls, and by other devices, of which the author is compelled to plead ignorance.

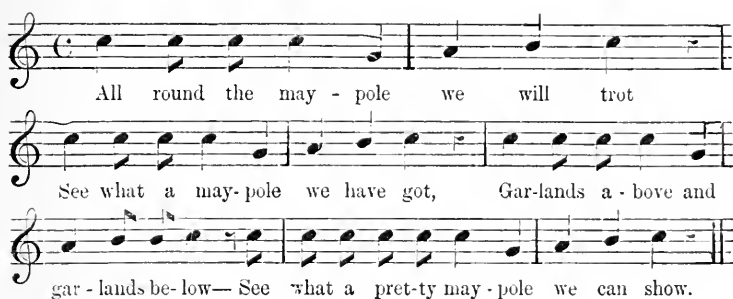
STRIKING HANDS is the recognised act of binding a bargain in fair or market. A dealer will say to a man having pigs to sell, 'What be yū a exin' fur thay, gaffer?' (*Seller.*) 'A guinea a piece.' (*Dealer walks off muttering 'I thought yū wanted to sell um praps.'*) By and by he returns, evidently liking the looks of

the pigs. (*Dealer.*) 'Well, yu aant sell'd the pigs then.' (*Seller.*) 'No, but I shawnt be long fust.' (*Dealer.*) 'Well, they be smartish pigs, I oodn't a come back else; but thay byunt wuth nuthin' like what you be a exing far um. I'll tell yu what I'll do thaough; uf you'll thraow mū back ten shillin', look yu, I'll gi' yū a pound a piece far um, un I wunt give a fardin moore.' (Holds out his hand, and after a little consideration the seller gives it a slap with his hand, and the bargain is settled.)

ON MAY-POLE DAY (May 29th, Restoration Day), the children, probably assisted by older persons, decorate a pole with may-blossoms and with flowers, liberally contributed by all the neighbours possessing flower gardens. The May-pole is carried from house to house by two or three strong lads, and at intervals is 'set up,' being held in a perpendicular position by the lads, while the children join hands and dance or run around it, singing:—

'All round the May-pole we will trot,
See what a May-pole we have got,
Garlands above and garlands below,
See what a pretty May-pole we can show.'

The tune is rather monotonous, and runs thus:—



SELLING BY CANDLE END.—The following extract is from the *Evesham Standard* of October 7, 1893, and although the sale referred to did not take place in Worcestershire, but in a neighbouring county, the custom is now so well-nigh obsolete, that the author will be pardoned for overstepping the boundary upon this one occasion:—'The curious old Warwickshire custom of letting roadside grazing rights by the auction of the burning candle was observed in the parish of Warton, near Polesworth, on Monday night.* The sale was conducted by the road surveyor, and the bidding for each lot commenced with the lighting of a bit of

* Oct. 2, 1893.

candle about a quarter of an inch long. He who was last in when the light went out became the purchaser. Five miles of herbage were thus let for a sum of about eleven pounds, which was only a quarter of what it made forty years ago.'

'HARVEST-HOME' used to be celebrated right joyously at almost every farm. At the carrying home of the last load the men and boys shouted:—

'Up, up, up, up, harvest-home,
We have sowed and we have mowed,
And we have carried the last load home,
Up, up, up, up, harvest-home.'

Afterwards the farmer and his family, his friends and his labourers, male and female, sat down to a substantial supper, followed by singing, dancing (sometimes) and cider drinking without stint. Much merriment prevailed, and (it must be admitted) some drunkenness. The festival was frequently kept up until daylight the next morning; when the young men of the party would perhaps be seen, gallantly and jocosely, escorting the women to their respective homes, by the light (in addition to that of broad day) of a lantern and candle. It can scarcely be denied that the change which has taken place in the manner of celebrating harvest-home in most parishes is for the better.

LOWER COUNTRY.—In haymaking time, some of the most adventurous of the young men, used to travel into a remote region somewhere below Gloucester, called the 'Lower Country,' in quest of work. They were usually successful, and not only secured for themselves a liberal supply of money as wages, but the reputation of being great travellers.

BON-FIRE NIGHT, or 'bwun-fire night' is loyally celebrated on the fifth of November, when a bonfire is lighted, guns and the blacksmith's anvil fired off, with the accompaniment of 'serpents,' 'pack-rackets,' 'sky-rackets,' 'wheel-rackets,' &c. The fuel for the fire is collected from the farmers and others, to whose houses men and boys repair, each provided with a stout stick; the end of which he thumps upon the ground, first as a kind of prelude, and then as an accompaniment to the well-known ditty:—

'O don't you remember the fifth of November
Is gunpowder, 'trason' and plot?
I don't see the 'rason' why gunpowder trason
Should ever be forgot.
A stick and a stake for Queen Victoria's sake,
I pray master give us a faggit;
If you don't give us one we'll take two,
The better for we and the wuss for you.'

Care is taken to bring down the sticks with a hearty thump, all together, at the words 'plot,' 'forgot' and 'faggit.'

THE CURFEW BELL is rung at Pershore at eight o'clock in the evening from November 5th until Candlemas day. It was formerly rung also at five o'clock in the morning, but owing to the old sexton (named Blake) who, for many years performed the duty of ringing the curfew bell, making a mistake as to the time on one occasion, and ringing it five hours too early, the practice was discontinued. The mistake arose in this way. The sexton awoke in the night whilst the church clock was striking twelve, and hearing the last five strokes only, he hastily slipped into his clothes, hurried off to the belfry, and rang the bell in the belief that it was five o'clock. At that time market gardeners carried their fruit (for which Pershore is so famous*) to Worcester, Birmingham, and other markets, in carts; loading them the day before, so that nothing remained to be done in the morning but to 'shut in' the horses and drive off. On the occasion referred to, some of the gardeners (trusting implicitly to the sound of the curfew bell) arose, harnessed their horses, and drove off to market, not discovering the error they had been led into, until they arrived at their destination.

CIDER-DRINKING.—The law permits the sale of cider without licence, if the quantity sold at one time be not less than four and a-half gallons. This being the case, half a dozen or so of workmen sometimes club together and purchase that quantity. They also, as if in duty bound, drink it off forthwith; the result being that by the time the jars are empty, every man who has taken a share in the affair is more or less intoxicated.†

The author remembers an absurd incident in connection with one of these 'cider-drinkings.' Amongst others engaged in this rustic devotion to Bacchus was a man named 'Tom,' a sawyer (his surname is immaterial), and after the conclusion of the orgies, the cider jars having been emptied, 'Tom' was discovered by his master, crawling along on his hands and knees, helplessly drunk. Upon being asked what was the matter, he replied with the greatest readiness, drunk as he was (although in doing so, it is to be feared he told considerably less than half the truth) '*I 'a got a bad cold, master.*'

* It is a saying around Pershore, that when there is a good '*hit*' of fruit (cherries and plums more particularly), the inhabitants speak of their town as '*Pershore, where d'you think!*' but in a bad fruit season they have recourse to their ancient motto (a good and pious one undoubtedly), *Pershore, God help us.*

† As the writer, to a very great extent, eschews politics, he does not venture to say that the law as it stands, with regard to this matter, is a mistake; but he cannot help thinking that if the men could, in such cases, purchase a smaller quantity than the '*faour un a 'awf*,' they would willingly do so, and less mischief might result as a consequence.

Little excuse can, it is feared, be offered on behalf of men who will sit and drink, sometimes for days together, merely for the purpose of getting rid of the cider; deeming it to be less wasteful to spend two or three days of their time in emptying the cask in this manner, than it would be to loosen the bung and permit the liquor to flow away down the gutter.

A Netherton man (also named 'Tom') had been absent from his work for a day or two, and his master wondering what had become of him, called on the third day at his house. There he found Thomas, with three companions, most industriously occupied in drinking cider drawn from a thirty gallon cask, which they had set themselves the task of emptying. Tom's explanation was, that 'having borrowed the borrel, and the owner wanting it hisself, he 'ad invited his three friends to assist him in emptying it, so that the owner shouldn't be disappointed; and that they 'ad now amwust finished the job.'

'GIVE A DRAP TO THE OAWD MON.'—This signifies to pour a horn of cider upon the ground instead of to drink it. It has been thought by some, that this practice might be a relic, of the ancient form of making a votive offering, to a heathen deity; possibly it might be; but if so, our modern votaries seldom offer, what they feel any inclination to drink themselves.

PRACTICAL JOKES are not uncommon; such as tying the doors of a cottage at which a wedding, a Christmas party, or other merry-making is being held. The method usually adopted, is to place a stout stick across the doorway, and to fasten the handle of the door to the stick, with strong twine. As the chamber windows are not usually very far from the ground, means of egress are not difficult to find; so that beyond the probable loss of temper (and possibly a little profanity) on the part of the occupiers of the cottage, no great harm is done. Sometimes, too, the inmates will, on such occasions as those alluded to, find the house suddenly filled with smoke; outside friends having taken the trouble to prevent its escape at the ordinary outlet, by carefully stopping up the top of the chimney (or 'tun') with a 'pitchful' of farm yard manure.

In a village in which were two public-houses, the proprietors of these establishments (we will call them A and B, although as a matter of fact the initial B served for both), have before now been a little surprised to find their respective signs changed—A's sign having been placed over B's door, and B's sign over A's.

Sometimes a man who forms one of a drinking party, will find that his hat (if he has taken it from his head and deposited it out of his sight), has also been indulging; for upon attempting to put

it on, a pint or so of liquor is discharged over his head and face. Or perhaps, upon feeling for his knife or his handkerchief in his coat pocket, he will find a small lake of ale or cider, which has been kindly deposited there by an unknown friend.

‘Catching an owl’ is a practical joke in which there are usually three actors, two being confederates. The one upon whom the joke is intended to be played carries a sieve, and one of the confederates a lantern; the third man, provided with a bucket of water, keeps out of sight, and stations himself in a hay loft, or similar situation overhead. The man with the lantern then takes the one carrying the sieve, to a spot well over-looked from the door of the hayloft; telling him that there is an owl in the loft, which will fly down at the light of the lantern, and when it does so he is to catch it in the sieve. The victim is instructed to hold the sieve up over his head, and the man with the lantern standing behind him throws the light into the centre of the sieve. This is the signal for the man with the bucket, who then pours its contents into the sieve and completely drenches the poor victim.

REMEDIES, CHARMS, &c.; LUCKY AND UNLUCKY SIGNS AND ACTS.

WHOOPIING-COUGH is said to be cured, by giving to the patient, on nine successive mornings, a slice of bread, which has previously been buried in the earth for twenty-four hours.

2. Let the patient stand under the nostrils of a ‘skew-bald’ (or pie-bald) horse, so that the horse can breathe upon him. This is considered to be a certain cure.

3. If the patient will pass underneath a bramble branch which is rooted at both ends, the cough will leave him.

BLEEDING AT THE NOSE, is cured by placing a cold stone or a key down the patient’s back, between the clothing and the skin.

2. The repetition of Ezek. xvi. 6, is a charm for bleeding at the nose, considered by many to be infallible.

3. For bleeding at the nose, wear a skein of red silk round the neck.

BURNS, AND ERYSIPELAS (St. Anthony's fire, or Tantony's fire), are supposed to be cured by 'charming,' usually by a woman. The charmer blows lightly on the affected part, and whispers very softly some mystic words; blowing and whispering alternately.

WARTS are cured by the application to them of a black snail, which must afterwards be impaled upon a thorn. As the snail wastes away, so also will the warts, until quite gone. The slimy matter from the snail, must be permitted to dry upon the warts.

2. Warts are also cured, by rubbing them for nine consecutive mornings, with the downy lining of the pod of the bean; or by applying to them for the same number of days, the juice of the weed called 'cat's-milk.'

3. Some persons are supposed to have the power of charming away warts; the only thing necessary for the patient to do, is to tell the charmer their number.

SORE EYES are cured by applying to them rain water, caught on Ascension Day, and which is called 'holy water.' The rain water, caught in the hollow formed by the leaves of a species of dock growing by brook sides, is also a cure for sore eyes.

FOR DIARRHŒA a small portion of a Good Friday 'hot cross bun' is taken; it is grated with a nutmeg grater, and taken as a powder. A single bun is usually kept all the year round for such purposes, and also because it is considered lucky.

SHINGLES is cured by the use of ointment, made of grease (dodment) from the Church tenor bell.

TOOTHACHE.—Cure for tooth-ache. Take a gimlet and a piece of cotton wool, and with the gimlet, bore a hole in the trunk of a maiden ash; thrust the cotton wool into the hole, and stop up the hole with a peg, saying at the same time 'I do this, hoping to cure the tooth-ache.'

2. A briar ball (a soft kind of ball which forms on the hip-briar), is carried in the pocket as a remedy for tooth-ache.

HEAD-ACHE.—A snake-skin, worn inside the hat or bonnet, keeps away head-ache.

STITCH IN THE SIDE is prevented by carrying in the pocket a 'stitch-bone;' a small bone in the shape of a T found in the cheek of a sheep.

QUINSEY.—A remedy for quinsey is a skein of crimson silk, or a narrow piece of crimson ribbon, worn round the neck. If the patient be a man, the ribbon or silk must be tied round the neck by the hands of a maiden.

NETTLE-STING.—A remedy for the sting of a nettle, is to rub the affected part with a dock-leaf, repeating whilst doing so this charm :—

‘ Ettle, Ettle, ‘ittle Dock
Dock sh’ll ‘ave a golden smock,
Ettle shaunt a’ nerrun.’

CORNS should be cut on the first Friday after full moon.

BABY’S NAILS.—It is unlucky to cut a-baby’s nails before it is a year old ; to do so would cause it to become a thief. Should it become necessary to shorten them, they must be bitten off.

LEY.—It is unlucky to have ley in the house on Ash Wednesday ; housewives therefore take care to empty their ley-tubs on Shrove Tuesday.

NEW MOON.—It is unlucky to see the new moon for the first time through glass. Upon first seeing the new moon, the money in the pockets should be turned over.

KNIVES.—It is unlucky for two knives to be crossed on the table.

SALT.—It is unlucky to spill salt on the table ; but should such an accident occur the ill effects of it are counteracted, by throwing a small quantity of the salt over the left shoulder.

THE FIRST LAMB seen in the season should have its face towards you ; otherwise you will be unlucky.

MAGPIES.—For a single magpie (or maggit) to fly near you, or to settle in the road in front of you when you are starting on a journey, is unlucky ; but should there be a pair of these birds, no ill may be apprehended in consequence.

A HORSE-SHOE nailed to the door of a house, stable, barn, &c., prevents the entrance of witches.

RAVEN.—It is unlucky to kill a raven. The writer remembers hearing an old game-keeper say that he never shot but one raven, and shortly after doing so he fell down and broke his leg. That this accident was attributable to his shooting the raven, he felt so fully convinced, that he declared he never would under any circumstances kill another.

WITCHCRAFT.—A small quantity of earth from a young man's grave, worn on the head (in a small bag), is a safeguard against witchcraft.

A HARE running through a village betokens a fire, and should it take refuge in any house, that is the house at which the fire will occur.

LEAVEN.—When a woman has laid her leaven, she sprinkles a little flour over it, and then makes a cross upon it with her finger; otherwise she would not expect the leaven to 'rise.'

BELL.—If the bell, when tolling, sounds heavily, it is the sign of an approaching death.

BEES.—When the owner of bees dies, it is supposed to be necessary to 'tell' the bees, or they will all die. 'Telling the bees' of a death is performed by a person rapping three times on the hive with the front door key of the house in which the deceased person died, and saying in a low voice, 'Bees, bees, your master (or mistress) is dead; you be a gwain to have a new master.'

EGG SHELLS should not be burnt, or the hens will cease laying.

FRIDAY.—It is unlucky to begin any new work, or to start on a journey on a Friday.

WASHING.—If two persons wash their hands at the same time in one bowl, they must spit in the water, otherwise they will quarrel before the day is over.

NEW YEAR.—The first person to enter a dwelling on New Year's morning should be a male; for a female to do so would be unlucky. The boys who go round 'wishing the villagers a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year' (page 62) are frequently invited into the cottages, so that they may thus act as fenders between the occupiers and ill-luck.

CRAMP.—Should you be troubled with cramp, lay your stockings across each other at the foot of the bed, when you retire to rest. Neglect of this precaution, might result in the continuation, or a renewal of the malady.

FOLK-TALES.

Of folk-tales the author does not remember to have heard much, excepting the usual stories to be found in all story books relating to fairies, giants, witches, &c. The following stories were, however, told to him verbally when he was a boy, and

might be thought worth recording. The first was related by a thresher man while at work in a barn, and the delight (slightly spiced with awe) with which it was listened to by the present narrator is not forgotten to this day:—

THE DEVIL AND THE FARMER.—The devil once called on a farmer and exed 'im if he could give him a job. 'What con'st do?' said the farmer. 'Oh! enything about a farm,' said the devil. 'Well, I wans (want) a mon to 'elp mū to thresh a mow o' whate,' sez the farmer. 'All right,' sez the devil, 'I'm yer mon.' When they got to the barn, the farmer said to the devil, 'Which oot thee do, thresh or thraow down?' 'Thresh,' said the devil. So the farmer got o' top o' the mow and begun to thraow down the shuvs of whate on to the barn flur, but as fast as 'e cud thraow 'em down the devil ooth one stroke uv 'is nile, knocked all the earn out on um, un send the shuvs flying out o' the barn dooer. The farmer thought he had got a queer sart uv a threshermōn; un as 'e couldn't thraow down fast enough far 'im, 'e sez to 'im, 'Thee come un thraow down oot?' 'All right,' sez the devil. So the farmer gets down off the mow by the ladther, but the devil 'e just gives a lep up from the barn flur to the top o' the mow, athout waiting to goo up the ladther. 'Be yū ready?' sez the devil. 'Iss' (yes), sez the farmer. Ooth that the devil sticks 'is shuppick into as many shuvs as ood kiver the barn flur, an thraows um down. 'That'll do fur a bit,' sez the farmer, so the devil sat down un waited t'll the farmer 'ud threshed that lot, un when a was ready agyun, 'e thraow'd down another flur full; un afore night they'd finished threshin' the whole o' the mow o' whate. The farmer couldn't 'elp thinkin' a good dyull about 'is new mon, fur 'e'd never sin sich a one afore. ('E didn't knaow it was the devil, thū knaowst, 'cos he took keer nat to let the farmer see 'is cloven fut*). So in the marnin' 'e got up yarly un went un spoke to a cunnin' mon about it. The cunnin' mon said it must be the devil as 'ad come to 'im, un as 'e 'ad exed 'im in, 'e couldn't get shut on 'im athout 'e could give 'im a job as 'a couldn't do. Soon atter the farmer got wum agyun, 'is new mon (the devil) wanted to knaow what he wus to do that day, and the farmer thought 'e'd give 'im a 'tazer; so he sez, 'Goo into the barn look, un count the number o' earns there be in that yup o' whate as we threshed out istaday.' 'All right,' sez Old Nick, un off a went. In a faow minutes 'e comes back and sez, 'Master, there be so many' (namin' ever so many thousan' or millions un odd, Id'na 'ow many). 'Bist sure thee'st counted um all?' sez

* It is said that when the devil appears personally to mankind, he is never able to dispense with his cloven foot, but that he always does his best to hide it, so as to prevent the discovery of his identity.

the farmer. 'Every carn,' sez Satan. Then the farmer ardered 'im to goo un fill a 'ogshead borrel full a wäter ooth a sieve. So off 'e shuts agyun, but soon comes back un tells the farmer e'd done it; un sure enough 'a 'ad; un every job the farmer set 'im to do was the same. The poor farmer didn't know what to make on it, fur thaough 'e wus a gettin' 'is work done up so quick, 'e didn't like 'is new mon's company. 'Owever, the farmer thought he'd 'ave another try to trick 'im, un told the devil 'e wanted 'im to goo ooth 'im a mowin' next marnin'. 'All right,' sez the old un, 'I'll be there, master.' But as soon as it was night the farmer went to the fild, un in the part the devil was to mow, 'e druv a lot o' horrow tynes into the ground amongst the grass. In the marnin' they got to the fild in smartish time, un begun to mow; the farmer 'e took 'is side, and told the devil to begin o' the tother, where 'e'd stuck in the horrow tynes thu knaowst. Well, at it went the devil, who but 'e, un soon got in among the stuck up horrow tynes; but thay made no odds, 'is scythe went thraough 'em all, un the only notice on 'em 'e took wus to say to the farmer, every time 'e'd cut one on um thraough, 'A bur-dock, master;' un kep on just the same. The poor farmer 'e got so frightened at last, 'e thraough'd down 'is scythe un left the devil to finish the fild. As luck ood 'ave it, soon atter 'a got wum, a gipsy ooman called at the farm 'ouse, and seein' the farmer was in trouble exed 'im what was the matter; so 'e up un tell'd 'er all about it. 'Ah, master,' 'er sez to 'im, when 'e 'ad tell'd 'er all about it; 'you 'a got the devil in your 'ouse sure enough, un you can only get shut on 'im by givin' 'im summut to do as 'a caunt manage.' 'Well, ooman,' sez the farmer, 'what's the use o' telling mū that? I a tried every thing I con think on, but darned uf I cun find 'im eny job as 'a caunt do.' 'I'll tell you what to do,' sez the gipsy ooman; 'when 'a comes wum, you get the missis to give 'im one uv 'er curly 'airs; un then send 'im to the blacksmith's shap, to straighten 'im on the blacksmith's anvil. 'E'll find 'a caunt do that, un 'e'll get so wild over it as 'e'll never come back to yū agyun.' The farmer was very thankful to the gipsy ooman, and said 'e'd try 'er plan. So bye 'n bye in comes the aowd fella, un sez, 'I a finished the mowin', master; what else a you got far mū to do?' 'Well, I caunt think uv another job just now,' sez the farmer, 'but I thinks thee missis a got a little job for thū.' So 'e called the missis, un 'er gan the devil a curly 'air lapped up in a bit o' paper, un tell'd 'im to goo to the blacksmith's shap, un 'ommer that there 'air straight; un when 'a was straight to bring 'im back to 'er. 'All right, missis,' sez the devil, un off a shut. When 'a got to the blacksmith's shap, 'e 'ommer'd un 'ommer'd at that there 'air on the anvil, but the moore 'e 'ommered, the cruckedder the 'air got; so at last 'e thraowed

down the 'ommer and the 'air un baowted, un never went back to the farmer agyun.

THE FAIRY'S PEEL.—A ploughman working in a field one day heard distinctly, what he supposed to be the sound of a female voice, proceeding from beneath the ground. The lady was lamenting that she had broken her peel, and the ploughman, possessing the usual gallantry of a Worcestershire man, called out, 'Bring 'im 'ere, missis, un I'll mend 'im.' Upon arriving at the end of his furrow, the ploughman was not a little surprised, to find a nicely made baking peel, with its handle broken in two, lying on the adland. When he went home he took the peel with him, and mended it as neatly as he could; and the next morning brought it back, and laid it on the adland, in the place where the fairy had left it the day before. When he had finished his bout, and returned again to the adland, he found that the fairy had taken away the peel, and had left in its place the most delicious little cake he had ever eaten.

A WITCH once entered a stable and sat upon the manger, in the shape of a large black cat. The carter seeing her, went and called a dog to drive her away, but the witch changed herself into a wheat straw, and laid herself across the horse's back. Upon the carter's return to the stable he could not see the cat, but seeing the wheat straw lying across the horse's back, he cut it through with his knife, causing it to bleed human blood. Alarmed at this he ran out of the stable and called his fellow labourers, who on going into the stable, found the dead body of an old woman shockingly mutilated.

SAYINGS, SUPERSTITIONS, &c.

APPLES ARE CHRISTENED on St. Swithin's Day (July 15), from which date they are eatable.

THE CUCKOO buys a horse at Pershore fair (June 26), and rides away. It is a fact that the cuckoo is seldom heard in this locality after that date, but should it occasionally depart from this rule it is said that 'he could not find a horse to suit him at the fair.'

In April it is said that the cuckoo comes and picks up all the dirt.

DON'T EAT DIRT.—When a boy or girl is going to service (particularly if it be a first situation), he or she will receive the injunction, ‘Be a good bwoy (or wench) and don’t yut dirt.’

OF ELMLEY MEN the saying is (or was), ‘You can always tell (know) a Elmley mon by ’is stick.’ It is true that, as a rule, every Elmley man carried (and probably does so now) a stick, which, unlike an ordinary walking-stick, projected six or seven inches upwards above the hand, and generally consisted of an ash sapling. This was probably owing to the fact, that they nearly all, were more or less connected with the woods, and had thus opportunities of supplying themselves with such sticks, which they found to be convenient and serviceable; particularly when climbing Bredon Hill. The author has spent many happy hours in the company of Elmley men, whom he always found to be of a most genial and jovial disposition, and there is lingering in his recollection some faint trace, (so faint is it that he scarcely dares to record it), of a tradition connected with Elmley men’s sticks. It is something to this effect—that on the day of the battle of Evesham a body of Elmley men marched to that town in support of Prince Edward, and that they were all armed with sticks, which they had cut for themselves in the woods; and being on the winning side, they naturally from that time, felt some pride in (or as we should say locally, were fritch of) their long sticks. However that may be, Leland, the historian, mentions (as quoted by the late Rev. Hugh Bennett) that ‘the old Lord Beauchamp, of Helmeley, sent three or four of his sunnes to the battle of Evesham, to help King Henry III. and Prince Edward, again Simon Monteforte and the Barons; and these brether, with their band, did a great feate in vanquishing the host of Monteforte.’

BREDON HILL.—A saying referring to Bredon Hill as a weather foreteller, is—

‘When Bredon Hill puts on his hat
Men of the vale beware of that.’

Meaning, that if a cloud descends upon the hill and remains there, it is a sign of rain; when it ascends, it is going to be fine. When the hill appears to be very near, showers of rain are probable; if apparently far off, fine weather may be expected.

THE BAMBURY STONE, about which so much has been written, and which stands at the border of Kemerton Camp, on the summit of Bredon Hill, is said to go down to the Avon to drink, every time it *hears* a church clock strike twelve.

WHISTLING FEMALES.—

‘A whistling maid, a crowing hen,
Are neither good for God nor men.’

PIG-KILLING.—A pig must not be killed when the moon is waning, or the bacon will ‘boil out,’ that is, it will shrink in boiling instead of ‘plimming up’ (or becoming plump), as good bacon should do.

CARELESSNESS.—It is said of a careless person, ‘It’s all Come day, go day, God send Sunday with him’ (or ‘her’).

CAKE’S ALL DOUGH.—When work upon which a person is engaged seems to be progressing somewhat slowly and awkwardly, so as to cause vexation or irritation, he (or she) will exclaim, ‘O dear aow, my cake’s all dough’ sometimes adding ‘How shall I bake it, I don’t know.’ Comp. *Shakespeare, Tam. Shr.*, i., 1 and v., 1.

ECLIPSE.—It used to be thought that an eclipse of the sun, was ocular evidence of a battle being then in progress between the sun and the moon; and that the result of a lunar victory, would be the immediate ending of the world.

POINTING AT THE STARS.—Children used to be told, that it was wicked to point with the finger at the stars, or at the rainbow; to attempt to count the stars, was also considered a very wicked act.

HAT BRIM turned up behind. ‘Is ’at’s turned up behind like a Pammington mon’s.’

MONEY-TREE.—Children who are wanting a toy or something of the kind, that their parents do not wish to buy for them, are told they must wait until their *money-tree* bears. Equivalent to waiting until their ship comes in.

MONEY SPIDER.—A small red spider, whose presence is supposed to indicate the approach of good fortune.

PERSHORE BOYS could formerly be readily detected by their peculiar ‘*twang*’; a sharp accent being given to the first syllable, the pitch slightly dropping and rising again as they proceeded with their sentence. Country lads (those from Pershore never forgetting to so designate the lads of the villages) would call after then, ‘*Wher* bist a gwainin?’ ‘Oy, *up* in the Newland.’ ‘*What* atter?’ ‘Oy, a *aputh* o’ taters.’ ‘*What* makes thu ’ave sich a faow at a time?’ ‘Oy, cos mother sez thay bwiles like morra, un goos down yer neck like a wheelborra.’

EVESHAM BOYS.—The call after an Evesham lad is (or was) ‘Who put the pig on the wall to ’ear the bond play? Oy, Asum.

(How these absurdities originated the author is unable to say, but they are included because with regard to sayings, &c., as well as in numerous other matters, it is difficult to decide what is, or what is not, a trifle.)

HORSE-HAIR IN WATER.—There is (or was), a belief amongst boys (if not amongst elders also), that a horse-hair permitted to remain in water, until the water became putrid, would change into a living reptile.

‘ Much is breeding,
Which, like the *courser's hair*, hath yet but life,
And not a serpent's poison.’

(*Shakespeare, Ant. and Cleop.*, i., 2).

HAUNTED HOUSES, roads, barns, &c., are not very uncommon. The writer has heard from more than one authority of a funeral procession, which is occasionally seen marching in all solemnity along the highway on Cropthorne Heath, near the hour of midnight. At a certain gate it turns off the high road, enters the field, and disappears. One eye-witness of this apparition, who related the matter as above stated, to the author; was a highly respectable, and well-known professor of music. The apparition is sometimes called ‘ Old Dutton's Funeral.’

Another road said to be haunted, is that leading from Little Comberton, to Bricklehampton and Elmley Castle. It is related that a man, who at the time lived at Bricklehampton, was proceeding homewards one evening along the road referred to, when he overtook a young woman, and walked beside her until they arrived opposite Coachman's barn, at which spot he ventured to attempt to put his arm round her waist. His arm, however, passed through her body, and she disappeared through the gateway which leads into the Coachman's barn ground.

Numerous stories are told of strange noises and appearances at Nash's Farm, at the Manor House, and in the locality around these old houses; both of which are in Little Comberton. But nearly all parishes seem to have their ghosts and haunted houses, and to relate a quarter of the stories which crop up upon the subject, would be a task that the author could not undertake.

‘ Such topics I must leave to other hands,
Shut out by envious straits of time and space.’

(*Virgil, Fremantle's Translation.*)

NAMES OF FIELDS, &c.

Of the Names of Fields, &c., given here, some are probably of no importance whatever; others are common-place, but a fairly good number of them are suggestive of by-gone days, and of old superstitions. [The spelling may not in all cases be correct; the names in many instances having been taken down from hearing them only.]

ACRES.
 ALLSBOROUGH HILL.
 ASHAM MEADOW.
 ASKEN CORNER.
 ASMOOR PIECE.

 BACK-ORCHARD.
 BAKER'S ORCHARD.
 BALLINS.
 BALLINS-SLAD.
 BARTLEY-ADLAND.
 BATTINS WOOD.
 BEARCROFT.
 BEGGAR-BOYS.
 BEN-HOLM.
 BERRYER-PIECE.
 BERRY (or BURY) WAY.
 BESS-CAPS.
 BIG MILLOW.
 BIN-CROFT.
 BLACK LENNARD.
 BLOOD-WORT.
 BOTTOMS.
 BOUN-HAM.
 BREACH.
 BROAD-BUCKTIN.
 BROADMERE-LAYS.
 BROAD-WATERS.
 BUCKETS-CORNER (? Puck-its
 Corner.)
 BURY-LENCHES.

 CALMUS-HILL.
 CAMES-COMB.
 CAN-LANE.

CATTI-CROFT.
 CHAD-BURY.
 CHARFORD-BANK.
 CHICKEN-ORCHARD.
 CHURCH-FURLONG.
 CLATS-MOOR.
 COACHMAN'S BARN.
 COLD-WELL.
 COLE'S-LAYS.
 COLT-GROUND.
 COLLEGE-ORCHARD.
 COPPICE-FURLONG.
 CRAY-COMB HILL.

 DEAD-MAN'S AIT.
 DEAR-SALE.
 DENE-FURLONG.
 DENE-MEADOW.
 DEVIL'S SLEDTHER.
 DINGE.
 DIPPERLINGS.
 DOCTOR'S-CLOSE.
 DOCTOR'S WOOD.
 DODDEN-HILL.
 DOWN-MILLOW.
 DOWNS.
 DRAGON'S-HOLE.

 ELLACOMPANE.
 FARTHER-HOBBS.
 FLAX-GROUND.
 FURZE-GROUND.

GIG-MWIRE (probably *Quag-
 mire*).

GLYDE-PIECE.
 GOODLEY-HILL.
 GRAVEL-PIT-GROUND.
 GREEN-FARN-HILL.
 GREEN-GROUND.
 GREEN-STREET.
 GUINEA-FURLONG.
 GUNNING'S-LANE.

HALES-WELL.
 HASELOR.
 HELL-HOLE.
 HENDON-BANK.
 HICKERAGE.
 HOB-NAILS.
 HOB'S-HOLE.
 HOME-GROUND.
 HONGER-FURLONG.
 HORRELL-ORCHARD.
 HORRELL-WOOD.
 HORSE-CAMPS.
 HOWBURN-HILL.
 HUNGER-HILL.
 HURRELLS-HILL.
 HUSS (or HURST) BARN.

ICKLEY.
 ICKLEY-MEADOW.
 ICKLEY-PIECE.

KENNET'S ORCHARD.
 KENT'S ORCHARD.
 KNAP.

LAMMAS-MEADOW.
 LICH-LANE.
 LILWORTH.
 LITTLE WORRALL.
 LONG-DITCH.
 LONG-Dragon's-PIECE.
 LONG-LAND.
 LOWER-FIELD BARN.
 LOWER NORVILL.

MAGPIE-LANE.
 MANOR-GROUND.
 MARY-BROOK.

MELCHAM'S WAY.
 MIDDLE-FURLONG.
 MIDDLE-NORVILL.
 MILESTONE-PIECE.
 MILLOW-GROUND.
 MOLL-HAYES.
 MOUNT-CROFT.
 NAFFORD.
 NETHER-HOBBS.
 NO-GAINS.
 NORCHARD-FIELD.
 NOSTERNS-WELL-PIECE.
 NURDER.

OLD AIT.
 OLD-FALLOW.
 OLD-FIELD BARN.
 OLD-FORD MEADOW.
 OLD-SEEDS.
 OXEN-DITCH.

PENNY-CLOSE.
 PENS ORCHARD.
 PERRY-ACRE.
 PIDDLE CHURCH CLOSE.
 PIDDLE MEADOW.
 PINKITS-CORNER.
 PITCH-HILL.
 PITCHALL-HILL.
 PORTER.
 PORTWAY.
 PORTWAY-FURLONG.
 PRIEST-LANE.
 PUCK-PIT-GROUND.
 PUCK'S PIECE.
 PUR-BROOK.

RAN'S ORCHARD.
 READ'S PIECE.
 REDDEN-HILL.
 RED-FORD.
 RIDGE-GROUND.
 RIDGEWAY FAR-CLOSE.
 RIDGEWAY-FURLONG.
 RIDGEWAY-GROUND.
 RIDGEWAY-LITTLE-MEADOW.

RIDGEWAY-MIDDLE-CLOSE.
 RINGE-MERE.
 ROUND-HILL.
 RUDGE-HILL.
 RYE-FURLONG.

SALAM-COMMON MEADOW.
 SALTER'S-GREEN MEADOW.
 SALTWAY.
 SALTWAY BARN.
 SALTWAY-BARN-PIECE.
 SALTWAY-COPPICE.
 SALTWAY-PIECE.
 SHAWL.
 SHEEP-HILL.
 SHEPHERD'S-CLOSE.
 SHUT-COOMB.
 SHUTS.
 SITCHWAY-CLOSE.
 SITCHWAY-LANE.
 SLING.
 SMOCK-FURLONG.
 STAFFORD'S MOOR.
 STANNISH-LANE.
 STARN-HILL.
 STREET-FURLONG.
 SWATMAN'S GROUND.
 SYCAMORE-GROUND.

THICK-THORN.
 THROUGHTERS.
 TIBLEY.

TOLLEY'S CLOSE.
 TOWN-FURLONG.
 TWINTON.
 TYDESLEY-WOOD.
 TYTHE BARN.

UPPER-HOBBS.
 UPPER NORVILL.
 UPPER SALTWAY-PIECE.
 UPPER SYTCH.

VALENTINES.
 VINEYARD-HILL.
 VINEYARD-ORCHARD.
 VORTY-CLOSE.

WAD-CLOSE.
 WAINHERD'S HILL.
 WATER-MERE.
 WELL-FURLONG.
 WERGS.
 WHITE-WAY QUOR-PIECE.
 WHOYN-HILLS.
 WIND'S-ARSE.
 WISTAN'S BRIDGE.
 WITLEY-PIECE.
 WOLVERTON.
 WOOLLAND.

YAK.
 YEALD-WOOD.
 YELL-WOOD.

NAMES OF SOME OF THE TOWNS,
 VILLAGES, ETC., IN AND AROUND THE DISTRICT,
 WITH THEIR LOCAL APPELLATIONS.

ABBOT'S LENCH	...	Known as	HOB-LENCH.
ALCESTER	...	"	AWSTER.
ALVE-CHURCH	...	"	ALL-CHURCH.
ASHTON	...	"	AISHEN.
BENGWORTH	...	"	BENJUTH, or BEN-JUD.
BIRMINGHAM	...	"	BRUMMIJUM.
BISHAMPTON	...	"	BISSAPP'N.

BRICKLEHAMPTON...	Known as	BRICK-LUND, or BRICKLEDUN.
BROADWAY ...	„	BROADY.
CAMPDEN ...	„	CAMDIN.
CERNEY ...	„	SAWNEY.
CHARLTON ...	„	CHOL-TON.
COMBERTON ...	„	CUMMERTON.
CROPTHORNE ...	„	CRAPTON.
DORMSTONE ...	„	DARMS'N.
EBRINGTON ...	„	YUBBERT'N.
ELMLEY ...	„	EMBLEY.
EVESHAM ...	„	A-SUM.
GOTHERINGTON ...	„	GUTHERT'N.
GRAFTON ...	„	GRAF'N (<i>a</i> as in father).
HONEYBOURNE ...	„	HONEY-BUN.
KERSOE ...	„	KESSA.
KIDDERMINSTER ...	„	KIDDY-MISTER.
KINGTON ...	„	KYINE.
MADRESFIELD ...	„	MATCH-FIELD.
MALVERN ...	„	MAVVUN.
MARSTON ...	„	MAAS'N (<i>a</i> as in father).
NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP	„	NAUN, also DIRTY NAUN.
OFFENHAM...	„	UFFENUM.
PEBWORTH...	„	PEBBUTH.
PERSHORE ...	„	PERSHA, or PAWSHA.
POWICK ...	„	PWOYK.
SEVERN ...	„	SIVVUN.
SMETHWICK ...	„	SMERRICK.
STANWAY ...	„	STANNY.
STOULTON ...	„	STOUT'N.
SWINESHERD ...	„	SWENSHUD.
THROCKMORTON ...	„	FROGMORT'N.
UPTON SNODSBURY	„	UPTON SNADGBURY.
WEST BROMWICH...	„	WEST BRUMMIDGE.
WHITTINGTON ...	„	WITTENTON.
WICKHAM ...	„	WEEKUN.
WORCESTER ...	„	OOSTER.

SHAKESPEARE AND OUR LOCAL DIALECT.

There is abundant evidence throughout the writings of Shakespeare, that he was well acquainted with this locality and its dialect. Indeed, it would be strange if such were not the case; for, unless Shakespeare had been a man who, after having acquired a certain amount of popularity, felt ashamed of his antecedents, and of his earlier surroundings, and therefore took great pains, not to introduce into his works, any of the provincialisms with which he must have been so familiar, from his earliest childhood; the absence of such evidence would scarcely be possible. Stratford is only twelve miles or so from Evesham 'as the crow flies,' and the difference in the dialects of the two districts is slight.

The following is a list of some of the local words to be found in Shakespeare's works, and in some instances, they are such as scarcely could have been used by a stranger to the locality. Moreover, what may perhaps be described as the ungrammatical subtleties of our dialect, could with difficulty have been grasped by any stranger, however learned (Bacon for instance), in the manner in which Shakespeare has caught them:—

A for He (see p. 50)	...	<i>Hen. V.</i> , iii., 2; also ii., 3, for example.
A-hungry (see p. 50)	...	<i>Mer. W.</i> , i., 1.
All-is-one	...	<i>Mer. W.</i> , ii., 2.
Argal	...	<i>Ham.</i> , v., 1.
Atomy (see p. 87)	...	2 <i>Hen. IV.</i> , v., 4 (comp. with <i>notomize</i> , which is another instance of <i>n</i> before a vowel).
Barm	...	<i>Mids. N. Dr.</i> , ii., 1.
Basting	...	<i>Com. Er.</i> , ii., 2.
Beetle	...	2 <i>Hen. IV.</i> , i., 2.
Bemoil (see p. 87)	...	<i>Tam. Shr.</i> , iv., 1.
Blindworm (see p. 87)	...	<i>Mids. N. Dr.</i> , ii., 3; <i>Macb.</i> , iv., 1.
Brize (comp. Bree)	...	<i>Troil. & Cr.</i> , i., 3; <i>Ant. & Cl.</i> , iii., 8.
Broken-mouthed (see p. 88)	...	<i>All's Well</i> , ii., 3.
Buck (to wash, see p. 88)	...	<i>Mer. W.</i> , iii., 3.
Burn-daylight (see p. 88)	...	<i>Mer. W.</i> , ii., 1; <i>Rom. & Jul.</i> , i., 4.
Cake's all dough (see p. 77)	...	<i>Tam. Shr.</i> , i., 1; v., 1.
Clipt	...	<i>Win. Tale</i> , v., 2; <i>Coriol.</i> , i., 6; <i>K. John</i> , v., 2.
Clout (a cloth)	...	<i>K. John</i> , iii., 4; <i>Rich. III.</i> , i., 3; <i>Ham.</i> , ii., 2.

bleaching on the hedge,' and also declares 'My traffic is sheets,' which, if taken from the hedge, would require to be 'pugged' off; is it not probable that the figure he uses, simply means, that the sight of the sheets (his traffic), excites his 'pugging' propensity?

Pun (to pound) (see p. 91) *Troil & Cr.*, ii., 1.

Resolve (to dissolve) (see

p. 91) *Ham.*, i., 2.

Shog *Hen. V.*, ii., 3.

Sliver *K. Lear*, iv., 2; *Ham.*, iv., 7; *Macb.*, iv., 1.

Sneap 2 *Hen. IV.*, ii., 1 (comp. *Snaowp*).

In concluding a bargain, men will *sneap* or *snaowp* upon a table or board with their knuckles; also in the game of 'Put,' when one player has a 'strong' hand, he will challenge his antagonist by *snaowping* upon the table; should the challenge be accepted (by a *snaowp* in reply), the game must be played through or the defaulter loses it.

Sprag (comp. *Sprackl*)

(see p. 92) *Mer. W.*, iv., 2.

Sweet-wort *Love's Lab. L.*, v., 2.

Talent (talon) *Love's Lab. L.*, iv., 2.

Tarre *K. John*, iv., 1; *Troil & Cr.*, i., 3; *Ham.*, ii., 2.

Tewkesbury Mustard ... 2 *Hen. IV.*, ii., 2.

Trammel (to catch as

with a trammel, inter-

cepting all that comes

behind it) *Macb.*, i., 7.

Tundish *Meas. for Meas.*, iii., 2.

Tup *Othel.*, v., 2; iii., 3.

Tush *Ven. & Adon.*, 104.

Urchin *Tit. Andr.*, ii., 3.

Whiffler *Hen. V.*, v., Chorus.

(N.B.—Where no other reference is given, the word will be found in the glossary.)

In corroboration of what has been said above, let the reader refer to *Hen. V.*, iii., 2, and compare the speech of the boy with some of the examples given in the preceding pages of this work. 'All *they* three;' 'a faces it out;' 'a never broke any man's head but his own,' &c., &c. Or note Mrs. Quickly's description of the death of Falstaff (Act ii., sc. 3). In either instance the language employed, might very well have been that of an individual of the working class, born and bred within sound of Evesham or Pershore bells.

Again, the word '*Argal*' (the fourth in the list), which Shakespeare puts into the mouth of the gravedigger (*Ham.*, v., 1), is used in this district for 'argue.' In most glossaries it is explained as being a corruption of the word '*ergo*,' and no doubt this is so; but in using the word, the gravedigger is only doing what is so frequently done, by persons in his position of life at the present day; viz., substituting a word with which he is quite familiar, for one of which his knowledge is imperfect, because it resembles it in sound. Such instances are not at all uncommon, and any one taking an interest in the dialect of our district, would be well repaid by a perusal of the writings of our great poet, with the object of identifying the numerous instances of word and phrase, to be found therein; and which go to prove, how intimately acquainted their author must have been, with our locality and its dialect.

It may be urged, that some of these words are mere survivals of the speech of all England, in Shakespeare's day. In certain cases this may be so; but it is scarcely credible that this can apply to many; for it would be hard to supply a valid reason, why a greater number of these (if once generally common) words, should remain current in the neighbourhood of Shakespeare's birth, rather than elsewhere.

APPENDIX.

A-done, *v.* leave off; to finish.

A-late, *adv.* lately.

An-all, *adv.* also. 'Ower Tom a got a good place; 'e gets five shillin' a wick, un 'is fittle *an all*.'

A-pick-a-back, *adv.*, carrying a child with its legs resting on the shoulders, and astride the neck.

Argify, *v.* to signify, to apply an argument.

Athwart (*pron.* Athurt), *prep.* from corner to corner (of a field or other superficial area).

Atomy or **Atomize**, *n.* See *Notomize*.

Ayed him on, *v.* incited, encouraged, urged.

Back-friend, *n.* a secret enemy.

Baggar-nation-saze-it, *interj.* a mild expletive.

Banyan-days, *n.* days without food. (The Banians are a class among the Hindoos, who believe in the doctrine of metempsychosis, and therefore abstain from animal food.—*Worcester*.)

'Monday, plenty.

Tuesday, some.

Wednesday, a little.

Thursday, none.

Friday, *Banyan-day*.

Saturday, go home.'

Beetle-yudded, *adj.* stupid.

Be-mwile, *v.* (bemoil), to bedaub with mud or other filth. 'How she was *bemoiled*.' (*Shakesp., Tam. Shr.*, iv., 1).

Biddy, *n.* a chicken or fowl (Gaelic, *bid*, to chirp).

Bin as fur narth as eny on yŭ. 'Been as far north as any of you' = 'I know as much as,' or, 'I am no more of a simpleton than any of you.'

Bird-batting, *v.* catching birds at night from hedges, bushes, and thatched roofs, &c., by means of a net and a lantern, the birds being disturbed by sticks poked into their roosting places, and allured into the net by the light of the lantern.

Blacksmith's-daughter, *n.* the key of the street door.

Blind-worm, *n.* a species of snake.

Blizzy, *n.* a blaze.

Boffle (baffle), *v.* to shake another's arm when writing; (a school boy's term).

Broken-mouthed, *adj.* having lost teeth.

Bucking, *n.* clothes being washed; a wetting. 'I was out in all that tempest last night, un it was lucky as I'd got this ere oawd top coowut on; I sh'd a got a good buckin' else.' Old lady used to call a child named Ann, 'Nance, Pance, the buckin' wesher.'

Bully-rag, *v.* to abuse, to be-call; *n.* a blackguard. (Is this from *Bully-rook*? See *Shakesp., Mer. W.*, i., 3, &c. Halliwell has *Bally-rag*.)

Burning-daylight, *v.* burning a candle during daylight.

By-Gad, *interj.* a softened form of a too common irreverent expression, but used more in the same sense as the word 'indeed'; thus 'Ower Jack fund a shillin' this marnin'.' 'Did a, *be-gad*.' (*Admiringly of a very large vegetable marrow*.) 'By-gad, that's a big un.'

By-gew, or **By-gaow**, same as By-gad.

Byunt afeard o' that. This expression is frequently used in the sense of there being no probability, or hope, of any particular event occurring. (*Old allotment tenant deputed to drink the health of the landlord who is leaving the village*.) 'Ere's to your good 'ealth, sir, un I 'ope when you be gwn as we sh'll 'ave a better come; 'owever, *I byunt afeard o' that*, but I 'ope us shaunt 'ave a wuss.' The old gentleman meant nothing otherwise than complimentary; 'hoping a better one might come,' meant 'a better one, if such a thing were possible;' and to hope that the retiring landlord would not be succeeded by one who would be worse than he was, implied that the chances were that such would be the case.

Call together, *v.* See *Prawl*.

Cant-hook or **Kent-hook**, *n.* a strong, sharp hook, having a ring or a chain at one end, through which a lever passes, and by means of which heavy trees, &c., can be rolled over for removal.

Cast not a Clout till May be out. (Another version of the proverb, 'Change not a clout,' &c.)

Cat gallows, *n.* a horizontal stick or bar, lodged upon two perpendicular ones, used by boys in practising jumping. See *Jumping-stock*.

Chunk, *n.* a lump broken or cut off; a large slice.

Chussha-Wagga, *n.* inferior or 'skim cheese,' thus described:—

'Two pints of milk and three of slobber.
Fire wunt fret it,
Water wunt wet it
Knife wunt cut it,
Dog barks behind the door,
Cos a cawnt yut it.'

Clane as a Whistle = completely. 'That thing as thay uses in France (the Gully-tine don't um call it?) to put folks to dyuth ooth, insted a 'angin' um; cuts ther yuds off "*as clane as a whistle*."'

Clench, *v.* in drawing water from a well with a bucket, the act of turning the bucket over, in such a manner as for the edge to go under water, is called *clenching the bucket*.

Cob, *n.* a game, in which the players have to endeavour to bowl a marble into a hole made in the ground.

Cotton, *v.* to be agreeable. 'Fur 'im to pay mū the same money for doin' 'is work, when I 'ad to find myself, look; as a did when a gan mū my fittle oodn't *cotton*; un so I teld 'im.' 'Styles and I cannot *cotton*.' (*Hist. of Capt. Stukely*, quoted by Nares.)

Cowed, *v. bent.* 'I don't think my spade is o' much account, fur 'e *cowed* as soon as ever a got into a bit o' gravel.'

Cocksey, *adj.* consequential.

Crack-up, *v.* to praise, or to speak highly of another.

Crow-keeper, *n.* a boy employed to frighten away crows in a cornfield. 'That fellow handles his bow like a *crow-keeper*.' (*Shakesp., K. Lear*, iv., 6).

Cunning Man or Woman, *n.* a person having the reputation of being a wizard, or a witch. It is not an uncommon thing to say of such persons, that they have sold themselves to the devil.

Cutting for the Simplex; an expression used, when speaking of a person who has done some foolish action. '*He wants cutting for the simplex, I should think.*'

Deck, *n.* a pack of cards.

'But whiles he thought to steal the single ten,
The King was slily finger'd from the *deck*!'
Shakesp., 3 Hen. VI., v., 1.

Devil's Coach-horse, *n.* the 'rove-beetle,' or 'black cock-tail' (*Ocypus olens*).

Dick's hat-band. As cross (or as queer) as *Dick's hat-band* = ill-tempered, cross, obstinate.

Don't spare; a common form of expression of welcome, to a friend who may have been invited to partake of a meal. 'Come, 'ave a bit moore; *don't spare*.'

Dowle, *n.* down, soft feathers.

‘One *dowle* that’s in my plume.’

Shakesp., Temp., iii., 3.

Drink-hus (drink-house), *n.* a building, or apartment, in which beer or cider are stored.

Eek, Eek, Eek, *n.* the call to ducks.

Eek-it-out, *v.* to use sparingly; to make the best use of a scanty supply.

Felth, *n.* feeling.

Fiz-gig, *n.* a kind of squib, made of damped gunpowder, and often used for the purpose of suffocating wasps when an attempt is made to destroy their nests.

Fizzle, *v.* to burn out like damp gunpowder; exhausting itself in emitting sparks and smoke, without producing either a blaze or an explosion.

Forry yū. This is an old form of saying ‘*for you*,’ not now very common.

Groaning, *n.* a lying-in (*Halliwell*).

Gulch, *v.* the act of swallowing.

Haulier, or **Hallyer**, *n.* a person whose business is to do ‘hauling’ with horse and cart for hire.

Hide-and-wink, *n.* hide-and-seek.

Hiding, *n.* a beating.

Jack-and-his-waggon, *n.* the constellation of ‘The Great Bear.’

Jime-stone; an upright stone in the fireplace of old-fashioned houses. ‘Thee say that agyun, look; un I’ll knock thee yud agyunst the *jimestone*.’ (Probably a corruption of jamb-stone.)

Jingling-match, *n.* a kind of dance.

Jobber, *n.* a dealer, as *pig-jobber*.

Kearf, *n.* a small bundle of hay.

Kidney-byun-sticks, *n.* the upright sticks by which kidney-beans (or scarlet-runners) are supported.

Mat, *v.* to fit, to correspond.

Mawnt, *adv.* must not.

Middlings, *n.* same as gurgins or gurgeons.

Mighty, *adv.* very, as ‘a *mighty* good un;’ ‘a *mighty* little un,’ &c.

Molly-coddle, *n.* a man who does work appertaining to a woman.

Most-in-general, generally.

Mwust-an-ind, *adv.* generally; almost always.

N is frequently placed before a vowel, as 'nawls' for 'awls,' 'naint' for 'aunt,' 'nuncle' for 'uncle,' 'nopples' for 'apples,' 'nunchin' for 'luncheon' (in this case, however, the 'l' is dropped and 'n' substituted).

Nation, *adj.* very; as 'nation good,' 'nation bad,' &c.

Neddy-grinnel, *n.* a dog-rose briar.

Nine-men's-morris, *n.* a game in which each competitor has nine 'men,' which may consist of stones, pegs, blocks of wood, &c., A board called a morris board is generally used for the game, in which holes are bored (to a geometrical pattern) in which to place the 'men.' (Probably a modification of that referred to by Shakespeare, *Mids. N. Dr.*, ii., 2.)

Notomize, also **atomy** or **atomize**, *n.* a skeleton; also a very thin person.

O brave! *int.* an exclamation of commendation. (*Boy.*) 'Look father, I a lazed thase 'ere six ontles o' whate.' (*Father.*) 'O brave!'

Outlandish, an out of the way place.

Pack Racket, *n.* a species of firework constructed so as to explode with a succession of loud reports (known in London as a *cracker*).

Pecked forrud, *v.* fell forward.

Pharisees, *n.* fairies. (The author has only heard old people use this term.)

Pitchful, *n.* the quantity of hay, straw, manure, &c., which can be taken up at one time with a fork, or sheaf-pike.

Plaguey, *adv.* used to emphasize any derogatory term or expression; as 'a plaguey nuisance;' 'he drinks too much, a plaguey sight.'

Playing at riband = playing truant.

Prawl, *v.* to sew roughly, carelessly, or in a make-shift manner; also called 'calling together.'

Puggy, *adj.* said of a fowl, having short stumpy feathers remaining in the skin, after all the principal feathers have been plucked out.

Pun, *v.* to thump or pound.

Punk, *n.* trash; applied to articles of inferior quality; a hard species of fungus is also called *punk*.

Pure, *adj.* in good health.

Resolve, *v.* to dissolve.

'Thaw, and resolve itself into dew.'

Shakesp., Ham., i., 2.

Saft as my Pocket, an expression signifying that the person of whom it is spoken is as soft as an empty pocket; soft (or *saft*) being synonymous with silly or foolish.

Sags, *n.* rushes; used for the seats of chairs, such chairs being called '*sag*-bottomed chairs.'

Sappy, *adj.* timber having much of the outer or softer portion compared with the inner, or more solid part, called the 'heart.' A simple or foolish person is also called '*sappy*.'

Sprackt, *adj.* smart, active, ready-witted. (Comp. *Sprag*, *Shakesp.*, *Mer. W.*, iv., 2.)

Thiller, *n.*, the horse between the shafts of a cart or waggon; also called the *filler*.

Wicked-mon, *n.* the devil. 'Little childun mustn't tell lies, the *wicked-mon* 'll 'ave um else.'

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